

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

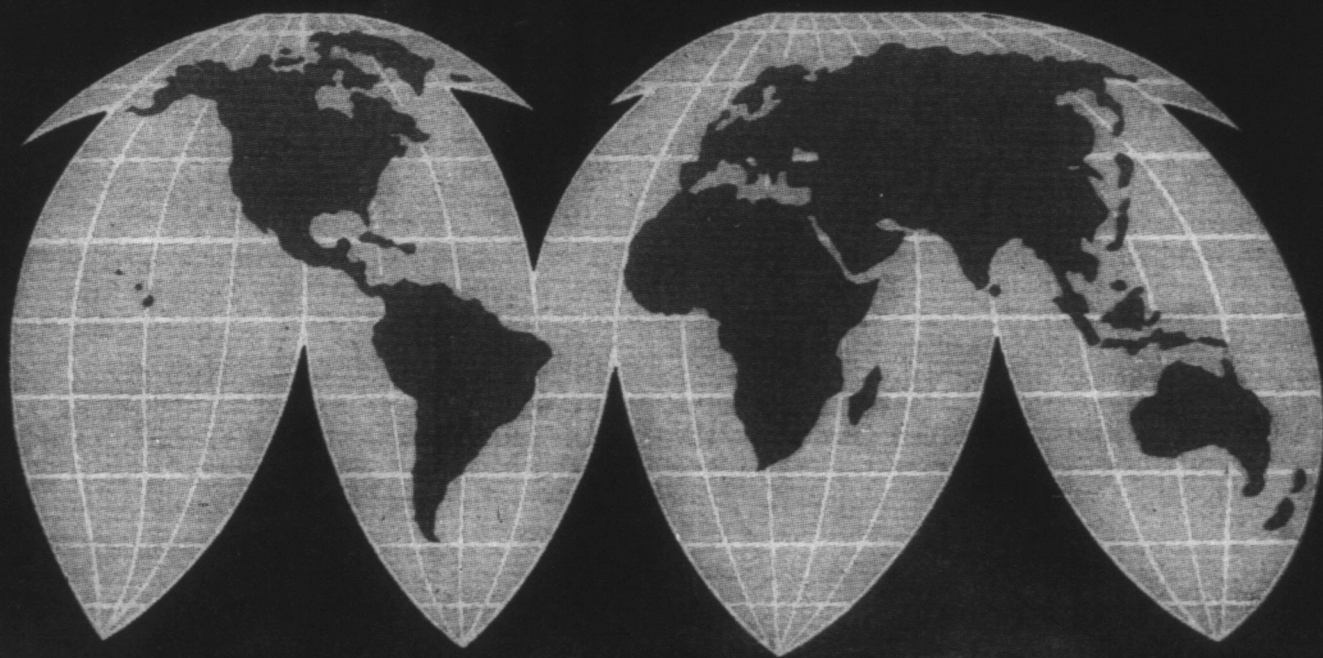
Thursday, October 15, 1987

Published Since 1877

## What in the world are you doing?

### COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Reaching People Touching the World



#### Ethiopia

When a devastating drought struck Ethiopia, Lynn Groce was one of the Southern Baptist missionaries who helped set up feeding stations for thousands of the starving. Because you gave through the Cooperative Program Groce was there when the people of Ethiopia needed him. Pray for his continued strength as he shares the message of God's love.

#### California

The Cooperative Program supports home missionary Debbie Wohler as she witnesses to the 2.5 million skiers who come to the resort area in Lake Tahoe, California. Every Sunday, between Christmas and Easter, 23 volunteer chaplains, under her supervision, share the gospel on skis to the tourists there. She ministers through mental health and literacy sessions, daycamps and Big A clubs, Bible studies and supervision of volunteers.

#### Ghana

Fran Greenway is a physician at the Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana. But her real passion is seeing new Christians and new churches born in the surrounding villages. The Cooperative Program helped put her there. Pray for Fran as she works around the clock to treat the sick and carry the gospel to those who haven't yet heard it.

#### Chicago

"Chicago is an aggressive city," says Cooperative Program supported home missionary Curtis Griffis. "Any evangelism here must be aggressive, but tempered with love and tenderness." Griffis trains pastors and laypeople in the Chicago area to do evangelism. "Chicago's challenge," says the former Texan, "is its wonderful racial, ethnic and cultural mix. You can't just sit back and watch. You've got to walk right in and experience it." Pray for Curtis and his ministry.

#### Virginia

"The Cooperative Program is a small gigantic miracle," according to Judy Koger, who depends on that miracle to minister through an inner city mission center in Roanoke, Virginia. She provides Bible study, preschool activities, a good pantry, and an adult club for the 200 people who regularly attend the center's activities. It excites her to see people who formerly were living without goals suddenly take an interest in life in Christ. As you give to your church and the church shares through the Cooperative Program you are a part of Judy's ministry.

#### Island Of Kauai

Home missionary Don Frank is the first full-time pastor of Eleele Baptist Chapel's three decades. Eleele is a town of about 600 located on Hawaii's rustic island of Kauai. The majority of Eleele's residents are of Filipino, Korean or Japanese descent. The chapel is the only evangelical church in the town. Don is one of two full-time pastors because Southern Baptists support him through the Cooperative Program.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The convention and Pastors' Conference

Mississippi Baptists will have their annual meeting Nov. 9 to 11. This annual meeting is something akin to a church business meeting except that it is on a bigger scale than some church business gatherings. The annual meeting of Mississippi Baptists is the time when Baptists in the state determine how to carry out their work for the coming year.

As is the case with church business meetings, the annual meeting of Mississippi Baptists is not well attended, comparatively speaking. The attendance, or membership, usually runs less than 1,500. Yet the resident membership of the 2,000 churches totals more than 450,000.

Once again it bears saying that churches are not members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. People are. So there are usually some fewer than 1,500 members. The convention lasts a part of three days, and it is over. There is no more convention until the next one. A convention results from the convening of people. It is not an ongoing thing.

It is completely separate from the churches. It has no authority over the churches that are aligned with it, nor do the churches have authority over the convention. The convention is run by its own members, or those who register and attend. They are named by the churches, but they carry no mandate from the churches. They vote their own individual consciences and not by directives given by the churches. For this reason the members of the convention are called messengers rather than delegates.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention begins on Monday evening and concludes at noon on Wednesday. For some time the convention began on Tuesday morning and concluded on Thursday morning, but attendance was light on Thursday. The Brotherhood, however, had its annual meeting on Monday, closing Monday night; and the convention was stuck with its Thursday closing, for the constitution stipulates three days. The Brotherhood moved to an alternate date, freeing Monday for convention use; so it began at noon Monday and closed at noon Wednesday to give church members time to be back in their churches by Wednesday evening.

When the Pastors' Conference was formed, however, that group felt the need for sessions on Monday morning and Monday afternoon, and the convention gave up its Monday afternoon session. It still closes at noon Wednesday, however, to give people time to get back to their churches.

Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, is president of the

Mississippi Baptist Convention and is completing his second term. So a new president will be elected. Gunn will deliver the annual president's address. The convention sermon will be delivered by Robert Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven. The closing message at noon Wednesday will be Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism for the Home Mission Board. Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., will speak on Tuesday evening. Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., will present the Bible Treasure messages. Both Harbour and Hamblin are former Mississippi pastors.

Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will present his traditional state missions message on Monday evening.

Churches that have not elected their messengers should do so quickly. Each church that has been in cooperation with the purposes of the convention during the past year and has contributed to world missions through the Cooperative Program is entitled to two messengers for the first 100 members or any fraction thereof. Then each church is allowed one additional messenger for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof. No church is allowed more than 10 messengers.

It is time to name the messengers. The Pastors' Conference will begin at 9:30 on the morning of Nov. 9. Both the Pastors' Conference and the convention will be at First Church, Jackson. The afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m.

Four Mississippi pastors and two pastors from outside of Mississippi will preach. The four from Mississippi are Ed Gandy, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko; Davis Odom, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon; Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth; and Gary Berry, pastor of First Church, McComb.

From outside the state will come James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga., and Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas. Merritt is a former pastor of Highland Church, Laurel, Miss. Draper is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, is president of the Pastors' Conference. The music director for this year's conference is Larry Kulcke, minister of music at Colonial Heights.

Other Pastors' Conference officers are Tommy Vinson, pastor of Colonial

Hills Church, Southaven, and Jon Doler, pastor of First Church, Raleigh.

First vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is Roy Myers, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; and the second vice-president is Tommy Tutor, pastor of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale.

The recording secretary is Clark Hensley, retired executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission who is now family ministry consultant for the Church Training Department. The associate recording secretary is J. W. Brister, director of missions for Hinds-Madison Association.

Every business meeting of Baptist people represents a time of highly important decisions regarding the work that Baptists carry on a worldwide basis in the name of the Lord. Every church business meeting is important, and every meeting of Baptists to make decisions regarding their organized work beyond the church is important. The Mississippi Baptist Convention next month will be no different.

Decisions can be made better with more people in attendance. The attendance at this convention should be the largest ever.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Christian Life Commission report

By Curtis W. Caine

*This is a report of the 1987 annual meeting of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to Mississippi Baptists from their representative on the commission.*

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (informally founded in 1908 and budgeted for \$10,000 in 1948) held its annual meeting in its new quarters at 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 15-16. Thirty of the 31 members were in attendance — one per state plus four.

Newly elected officers are Fred Lackey, Alabama, chairman; Joe Atchison, Arkansas, vice-chairman; and Rudy Yakym, Indiana, secretary.

Among them six are women, 15 are pastors, 13 are in non-church related vocations, one is a legislator, one an editor, one a professor, one a physician, one a lawyer, one a stockbroker, two are business executives, one is a proving grounds director, two are in civil government, six are housewives, one is a minister of music and school

administrator. Thus representation is widely distributed geographically, multidisciplinary, and diversely opinioned. The terms are for four years and stagger (1986-1990 for Mississippi), with a consecutive maximum of eight years.

Larry Baker has very actively served as executive director for six months. He was previously professor of ethics at the seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Foy Valentine is half way through his employment as executive officer for development, writing a history of the commission and acquiring outside funding.

An executive staff of seven and support staff of six (total of 13) efficiently implements and carries out the projects and programs directed by the commissioners.

The Christian Life Commission's mandated *raison d'être* is to encourage and assist Southern Baptists, all Christians, and all people to pattern their lives and conduct after Christ's life and teaching.

The commission's motto is "Helping Changed People Change The World." Among its considered areas of concern and activity are hunger, Christian citizenship, sanctity of human life, AIDS, pornography, teenage pregnancy, abortion, morality, and church/state interrelationship.

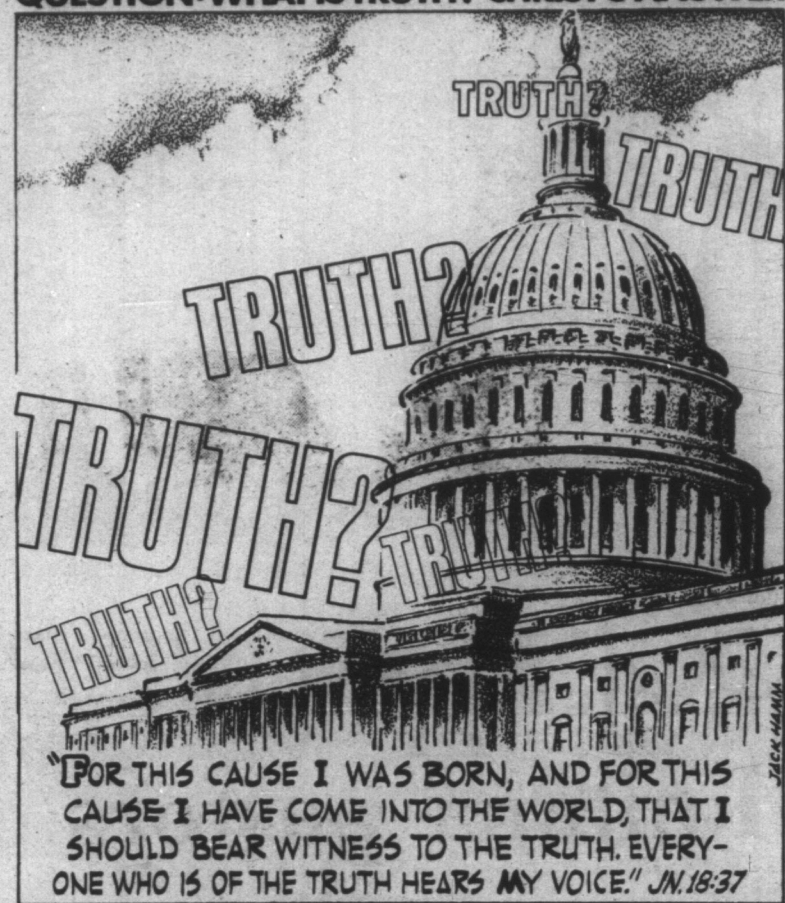
For two full days the distinguished, knowledgeable commissioners discussed their issues and hammered out means of implementing conclusions.

It was an inspiration to participate as a sophomore. The commission and the commissioners are anxious to do what is God's will.

In order to conscientiously discharge the assumed responsibilities imposed by being chosen the representative from Mississippi on this commission, I would welcome the counsel and advice of my sisters and brothers.

Curtis W. Caine is a Jackson Physician and a member of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

## QUESTION: WHAT IS TRUTH? CHRIST'S ANSWER



## Conference Center attendance drops with conference decrease

NASHVILLE (BP) — Combined summer attendance at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers dropped by about 5,000 in 1987 due to a change in conference scheduling, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board records show.

The combined 1987 attendance at Glorieta and Ridgecrest was 55,641, a drop from 60,676 the previous year.

One Sunday school leadership conference and one church music leadership conference were dropped at each center in 1987, when the schedule returned to that of pre-1984 times in which all conferences began on Saturday evenings and ended Friday at noon.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 111 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 35  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor . . . . . Don McGregor  
Associate Editor . . . . . Tim Nicholas  
Assistant Editor . . . . . Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Coordinator . . . . . Evelyn Keyes  
Editorial Assistant . . . . . Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Assistant . . . . . Renee Walley  
Financial Records . . . . . Betty Anne Bailey  
Computer Operator . . . . . Irene Martin

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Martha Chambliss, Oxford; Ferrell O. Cork Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian, chairman; Odean Puckett, Natchez; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; Ex officio, Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

Send news and communications to  
The Editor, Baptist Record  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205





Caley Ray Nichols, wearing a Montana suit, talks with Cooper Walton who helps get the suits to Montana.

## Mississippi suits note Montana pastors

By Tim Nicholas

In Montana, some Baptist pastors are identified by their longevity there by "he's a three suiter . . . he's a two suiter," says Caley Ray Nichols, a former Montana pastor and director of missions, currently pastor of Poplar Flat Church in Louisville.

What this means is that he's been there for three years or two years and has been on the receiving end of a long term missions project linking Montana Baptists with Mississippi Baptists. Nichols was interviewed for this story wearing his sixth Mississippi suit.

The Montana Suit Project provides a new suit of clothes for each Baptist pastor in Montana yearly. A total of 2,400 suits have been sent out since the project got its start in 1962, according to Cooper Walton of Jackson who served on the original pioneer mission committee which sponsored the project.

Back then, the late Leroy Smith and Owen Cooper pulled together a list of 56 pastors, raising money for suits, with enough to spare to pay for a pastor's moving expense to Montana.

Early on, the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department took on the yearly task of fund-raising for this project and is this year setting a one

time goal of 200 suits to send to Montana and North and South Dakota, and to Utah and Idaho pastors. In 1986 a total of 113 suits were sent to pastors of the Northern Plains Convention, which encompasses Montana and North and South Dakota.

The way the project operates is that each Southern Baptist pastor in the targeted state is invited to apply for a suit. He only has to list his exact sizes, color, and style preferences. The suit he chooses is sent directly to him. If there is a problem with the suit, he sends it back for a refit.

Nichols says the suits are "most appreciated" by the pastors. He said Dub Hughes, another Mississippian in Montana, told him the project was one of the finest he knew of to support and encourage the pastors.

Paul Harrell, Mississippi Brotherhood director, said the project was one of the joyful ministries of Brotherhood work over the years. He said the money comes in between October and April, usually paying for the entire project for the year.

Walton said the project usually tries to get the suits out before Christmas each year.

Merry Christmas, Montana pastors.

## State students volunteer for Brazilian evangelism

Mississippi Baptist students will be one fourth of the entire team of 100 college students traveling to Brazil over the New Year holidays to participate in a special mission project there.

The project, taking place Dec. 28-Jan. 13, will involve American and Brazilian college students working together in evangelistic efforts in the cities and in the countryside. The work will include construction and repair, revivals, drug abuse education, and creative ministry with children.

Much of the cost to the Mississippi students has been underwritten by their fellow college students in the state through the student missions fund which is raised entirely by Mississippi students. A total of \$17,500,

which will be \$700 each, has been allocated for the project.

The students who are planning on going include Lisa Batson and Wendy Willoughby of Pearl River Junior College; Mike Boggan, John Bagwell, Donette Blaine, Ken Hester, Angie Atkins, Sandy Bilbo, and Andy Sharp all of Mississippi State University; Janet Carroll, Derrick Pitts, and associate director Elizabeth Thurman of Northeast Junior College; Lavon Gray of Co-Lin Junior College; Bobbie King of Blue Mountain; Annette Almand, Vera Cranford, and Leonard Locke all of the University of Mississippi; Jeff Boyette of Delta State University; Keith Parker, Melissa Carte, and Michelle Miller all

(Continued on page ???)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 15, 1987

Published Since 1877

### "Accountability" said to be issue

## "Dissolve" BJCPA ties, committee members urge

By Marv Knox & Greg Warner

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs have recommended the SBC "dissolve its institutional and financial ties" with the Washington-based church-state agency.

The SBC Public Affairs Committee voted 8-4 to suggest the SBC sever ties with the Baptist Joint Committee, comprised of nine Baptist bodies. The vote, taken Oct. 6 following the BJC's annual meeting, also asked for \$485,200 to fund and staff the Public Affairs Committee "as the agency of the Southern Baptist Convention to deal with First Amendment and religious liberty issues beginning Oct. 1, 1988, or at the earliest possible date . . ."

The action does not mean Southern Baptists will "defund" the BJC, said Public Affairs Committee member Richard Land of Dallas. "This is a dissolution of institutional and financial ties, not defunding. Churches may still contribute" to the BJC, he said.

### Mirror of Motion

The Public Affairs Committee met before and after the BJC meeting in Washington Oct. 5-6. The motion to dissolve ties mirrored a motion made in the preliminary meeting of the Public Affairs Committee Oct. 4.

That motion would have asked the SBC Executive Committee to "immediately withdraw funding" of the BJC if it failed to provide certain financial information, professional staff correspondence, and access to staff for evaluation interviews. The Public Affairs Committee instead passed a substitute motion that included the original requests but did not specify withdrawal of funding.

The Public Affairs Committee's motions stemmed from the BJC executive committee's previous refusal to grant a similar request. Following up on an SBC motion, the Public Affairs Committee has been attempting to analyze the BJC, including its accountability to the SBC.

When the BJC convened the following day, it set in motion its own staff evaluation process, granted the Public Affairs Committee only part of the information it requested, and denied unilateral Public Affairs Committee access to the staff for evaluation.

The BJC voted 24-7, with only members of Southern Baptists' delegation dissenting, to request the BJC executive committee evaluate the staff on behalf of all nine member

denominations and report back to the full BJC at its next meeting, in October 1988.

Immediately following that vote, Southern Baptist Norris Sydnor of Mitchellville, Md., asked the BJC to grant the Public Affairs Committee's request for eight items: a breakdown of the 1986-87 budget and the proposed 1987-88 budget; staff salaries and benefits for the past five years; a list of the staff's organizational memberships paid by BJC funds; itemized expense accounts for the past five years; a copy of the BJC constitution and bylaws; a roster of BJC committees; copies of correspondence to and from the staff for the last three years; and approval of Public Affairs Committee interviews with the staff Oct. 7 and 8.

The BJC granted access to five of the items but contested the Public Affairs Committee's right to expense accounts, correspondence, and independent staff evaluation.

Land recounted how the Public Affairs Committee previously had sought the information and how the BJC executive committee — in a poll conducted by Executive Director James Dunn on behalf of Chairman Wesley Försline — turned down that request. "It is important to note that it is difficult for our constituency to understand why" the BJC staff is not accountable to the Public Affairs Committee, he said.

### "Never Permit"

"I would never permit correspondence of my professional staff to be opened," said American Baptist William Cober of Valley Forge, Pa. Baptist General Conference member Warren Magnuson of Aitkin, Minn., noted disclosure of correspondence could be harmful to innocent parties, particularly people that professional staff have helped in pastoral functions.

Concerning staff evaluation, Cober said: "If all nine member bodies did this, it would be inappropriate. Our staff could not do what we hired them to do." Added North American Baptist John Binder of Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., "My objection is to a formal staff evaluation from one agency of nine around this table."

Sydnor stressed the BJC "sells itself to the Southern Baptist Convention" by telling Southern Baptists, "The staff of the Baptist Joint Committee is our only staff" for church-state issues. The denied access to the requested items hampers the Southern

Baptists' process of accountability, he added, noting the SBC delegation's position is untenable when it has accountability to Southern Baptists without accountability from the BJC.

The BJC subsequently voted to deny the three Public Affairs Committee requests. Southern Baptists cast all 11 votes to turn over expense accounts and to allow the Public Affairs Committee to evaluate staff. They cast all eight votes to allow the Public Affairs Committee to examine staff correspondence. Fifteen of Southern Baptists' 18-member delegation were present, and some of them sided with the majority on both votes.

### "Hidden Agendas"

Those votes represented the major loss for the Public Affairs Committee majority in a meeting characterized by both sides as hostile and in which members from both groups referred to "hidden agendas." The BJC also overturned or modified five other moves by the Public Affairs Committee or some of its members:

— It approved a 1988-89 budget total of \$708,110, including \$515,600 from the SBC Cooperative Program budget. The request included a 15 percent increase over 1987-88 contributions. Some Southern Baptists dissented, particularly noting the SBC provides

(Continued on page 4)

## Mississippi member comments

Mrs. Dudley (Robbie) Hughes, a member of First Church, Jackson, serves on the Public Affairs Committee. This meeting was her first, having been elected in June, after nomination by Reuel May, a fellow church member who served on the Committee on Boards.

"If the other meetings had experienced the same kind of atmosphere that was experienced at this particular meeting, I don't see how our relationship has survived the 50 years," she said.

Mrs. Hughes told the Baptist Record she had never served on a Southern Baptist board before, and has not attended a Southern Baptist Convention, but is active in her church and in national politics, having been a delegate to the last Republican Convention. She voted with the majority to dissolve the tie between Southern Baptists and the

(Continued on page 6)



# "Dissolve" BJCPA ties, commission members urge

(Continued from page 3)

a majority of the BJC budget but does not have a majority voice in its decision process.

— It passed a resolution proposed by Southern Baptist Les Csorba III of Alexandria, Va., that encourages presidential nomination and Senate confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court justices "who adhere to the traditional principle of church-state separation and the cherished right of religious freedom" and encourages Baptists to write senators in support of such nominees.

However, the BJC deleted eight paragraphs of the resolution that cited specific illustrations of what the "traditional principle" means.

— It approved a resolution offered by Smith that demands that People for the American Way, a secular First Amendment organization, withdraw its videotape, "Life and Liberty for All Who Believe" because it "includes portions highly critical of many Christian leaders."

However, it struck to other paragraphs from the resolution, including the statement, "We believe it is in the best interest of all nine Baptist denominations that the (BJC) cease and desist from any further association with People for the American Way because its record and objectives are thoroughly foreign to the objectives of our nine Christian groups." Several members noted that, although Dunn at one time was an individual PAW member, the BJC never has been associated with the organization.

— It declined to reprimand Dunn for writing a "clarification" letter to senators following an August resolution by the Public Affairs Committee

in which it endorsed Robert H. Bork as a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Dunn noted some people in Washington had been misinterpreting that endorsement to mean the entire SBC had endorsed Bork and said his letter clarified that misinterpretation. Public Affairs Committee members contended Dunn's letter counteracted and misinterpreted their action.

— It refused to force Dunn to present to the Public Affairs Committee in advance any future staff clarifications of Public Affairs Committee actions.

— It refused to rescind but did refer to committee and pull from active circulation a 1980 resolution, "On the Dangers of Civil Religion." It also referred to committee Csorba's request to delete all references to the "Religious Right" in the resolution.

In moves of consensus, the BJC adopted a Public Affairs Committee-sponsored resolution supporting the Danforth Abortion-Neutral Amendment to the 1987 Civil Rights Restoration Act, and it adopted a motion proposed by Dunn that encouraged the BJC to establish a voluntary affirmative action hiring policy for executive staff.

When the Public Affairs Committee reconvened following the BJC meeting, several members who consistently lost votes in the BJC action said they felt they had been abused by the BJC. "I felt like we'd been beaten up," said Les Csorba III of Alexandria, Va. "We made every attempt to cooperate, but I felt thoroughly punished."

During this meeting, they voted to recommend dissolving SBC ties with the BJC. The motion was made by

Albert Lee Smith of Birmingham, Ala., who also offered the funding withdrawal motion prior to the BJC meeting.

Public Affairs Committee members defeated a motion offered by Lloyd Elder, president of the SBC Sunday School Board in Nashville. The motion would have declined action on another SBC motion calling for continued examination of the BJC staff, and it would have noted the Public Affairs Committee is working "to successfully preserve 'jointness' with the other Baptist bodies and yet ensure responsiveness to our own Southern Baptist Convention."

Committee members approved a Land motion noting Dunn "is not the executive director" of the Public Affairs Committee, directing that all Public Affairs Committee reports to the SBC or its Executive Committee be made by the Public Affairs Committee chairman or his designee and that no BJC staff member be represented as a Public Affairs Committee staff member.

Public Affairs Committee Chairman Sam Currin of Raleigh, N.C., told Baptist Press: "I don't think this would have come to a head at this meeting had they (the BJC) not refused the Public Affairs Committee's right to look at financial records and documents and interview the staff. It really comes down to a matter of trusteeship and accountability. The Southern Baptist trustees do not believe they can represent the SBC when in fact they do not have the power to do so."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor; Greg Warner is associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.

## Jo Ann Leavell to speak to ministers' wives Nov. 9

The annual Ministers' Wives Banquet will take place Nov. 9 at Broadmoor Church in Jackson, ending in time for return to First Church for the opening of the Mississippi Baptist Convention that evening.



Leavell

Featured speaker for the banquet, which is open to the wives of all ministers in the state, will be Jo Ann Leavell, wife of Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Leavell has been instrumental in developing a program for training student wives on the seminary campus. She has been president of the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference. And she organizes an annual lectureship for ministers' wives.

Vocal music will be brought by Martha Bacon, a Clinton-based music evangelist. And emceeding will be San-

dra Gunn, wife of Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and current Mississippi Baptist Convention president. Mrs. Gunn is a certified worker for ministers' wives.

The program begins at 4:30 with fellowship time, dinner is at 5:20, and adjournment is by 7 p.m.

Reservations for this banquet must be turned in no later than Nov. 4 to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. Cost is \$7.50 per ticket.

## Volunteers for Brazil

(Continued from page 3)

of the University of Southern Mississippi; Laurie Wilkerson of Northwest Junior College; Jamie Stewart of Southwest Junior College; and associate director of Jones County Junior College BSU, Frank Porter.

## Baptists help victims of mudslide

By Charlie Warren

MARACAY, Venezuela (BP) — Each day as she headed out to the site of the Sept. 6 mudslide here, missionary Freida Adams asked God to help her keep from crying.

"If the tears once start, where will they end?" she asked.

Her husband, Ron, is the disaster relief coordinator for the Baptist Mission of Venezuela.

Until September, that has been a minor part of his responsibility as a Southern Baptist missionary. His primary assignment is to direct the Baptist Bible Institute in Valencia, about 30 miles from Maracay. Mrs. Adams, a registered nurse, assists with church and home responsibilities and works with a clinic of First Baptist Church of Valencia.

But on Sept. 6, when the side of one of the mountains that hovers over Maracay came crashing down with the force of a dozen tornados, the disaster relief assignment became a sobering reality.

Statistics fail to tell the story because nobody can agree on the

numbers. Estimates of the dead range from about 100 to more than 10,000.

Statistics on the homeless are anywhere from 300 homes destroyed to 50,000 people homeless.

"There is no way to estimate the death count or the count on the homeless," said Adams. But those who work in the area — military, civil defense officials, Venezuela's Red Cross organization, and church workers — all agree the lower estimates are far from accurate.

The disaster occurred during Sunday afternoon "siesta" time when most children and many adults were napping.

Reports indicate it rained more in a 24-hour period than it usually rains in a month. As tons of mud fell from the mountainside, it collected in the already rain-swollen streams and rushed toward the valley below, carrying trees, boulders, houses, and cars along with it.

People said the slide was like an avalanche. They heard a rumble, and those who could see the mountainside watched the soil and greenery sim-

ly slide off, leaving solid rock exposed. Some thought it was an earthquake.

One eyewitness helplessly watched 60 cars drive into a spot where the road had been washed away and then plunge over the side of the mountain. It was raining so hard, the drivers could not see the road was out. Reports indicate 700 cars had to be towed out of the area.

Places where homes once stood now are empty lots, with a few telltale signs that a house once occupied the spot. Further downstream, where the force of the slide had subsided, roofs of houses can be seen sticking up out of the mud. Others are buried completely.

When Adams learned of the disaster, he immediately went to work investigating. The next day, he was on the disaster site, along with Jacobo Garcia, executive director of the Venezuela Baptist Convention; Ben Kirby, chairman of the Baptist mission; Stan Parris, mission vice chairman; and Arnoldo Arey, pastor of Ig-

(Continued on page 6)



**First Baptist Church**  
**Marks, MS**

**80th ANNIVERSARY & HOMECOMING**  
**October 25, 1987**

Dr. John Daley will be preaching in the morning service (11:00 a.m.). Dinner on the grounds will follow.

<p>Dr. Kenneth W. Massey Pastor 300 Maple Street</p>	<p>Darryl and Rebecca Prater Ministers of Music and Youth 601/326-9333</p>
--	--



**Dino**

**Renowned Gospel Pianist**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**407 Main St., Greenville, Mississippi**  
**601-334-9452**

**Wednesday, Oct. 28 - 7:00 p.m.**

**"Dino For Haiti" — Mission Concert**

A love offering for missions will be taken



## Churches adopt expanded annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Sept. 10 issue of the Baptist Record:

Alcorn: Antioch; Attala: Sallis; Bolivar: Providence; Carroll: Carrollton; Choctaw: Ackerman; Clarke: Hebron Ridge; Copiah: Sylvaena; Franklin: New Hope; Greene: Unity; Gulf Coast: Bayou View, Commission Road; Holmes: FBC Tchula; Jackson: Bellehaven; Jones: Glade, Pleasant Home; Lamar: Calvary; Lauderdale: Northcrest; Lawrence: Calvary; Lebanon: Nineteenth Avenue, Rawls Springs; Lee: FBC Baldwin, Sherman; Lowndes: Mt. Zion; Marion: North Columbia; Mississippi: Thompson; Monroe: Athens, FBC Aberdeen, Trinity; Neshoba: Beacon Street, East Philadelphia; North Delta: Oakhurst; Northwest: Evansville; Oktibbeha: Adaton; Pearl River: Derby, West Union; Perry: FBC Beaumont; Pike: Friendship, Terry's Creek; Pontotoc: West Heights; Prentiss: Calvary, FBC Booneville, Ingram; Rankin: FBC Brandon, Leesburg; Sunflower: Sunflower; Tippah: Falkner; Union: Port Gibson; Union County: Bethel;

Washington: Parkview Greenville; Wayne: FBC Waynesboro; and Yalobusha: FBC Coffeeville.

## Association adopts annuity plan

Pearl River association has adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those last reported in the Sept. 10 issue of the Baptist Record.

## C. Eugene Evans, minister, dies

C. Eugene Evans, 71, formerly of Jackson, died Oct. 1, 1987, at Bolivar County Hospital. Services were held 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home, Jackson.

A native of Neshoba County, Evans was a minister in the Choctaw County area for some 15 years. While living in Jackson, he held twice-monthly services at Crossgates Nursing Home in Brandon, where he was a member of the Central Baptist Church. He was a former employee of Dixie Gas in Jackson and had worked at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Hazel Evans of Cleveland; daughter, Mrs. C. L. (Bobbie) Kirby of Clearwater, Minn.; sons, Jessie Evans, Allen Evans and Alvin Evans, all of Sacramento, Calif.; two sisters; three brothers; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## MC lectures to feature English profs

The 17th annual Sue Price Lipsey Lectureship at Mississippi College will be held Monday, Oct. 19, in the Vesper Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. Speaker for the 3 p.m. program will be Bill Ellis, assistant professor of English at the college. He will present a lecture on the process of creative writing, "Created to Create."

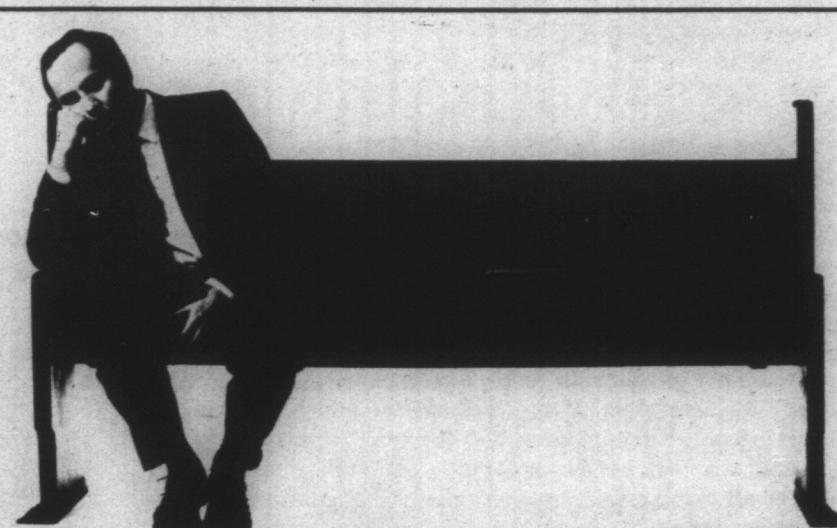
Speaker for the 7:30 p.m. program will be Evans Harrington, professor of English and former chairman of the English department at the University of Mississippi. Dr. Harrington, a 1948 graduate of Mississippi College, has been director of the University of Mississippi Annual Conference on William Faulkner since 1974. He will present "A Reading with Comments" based on his work and experiences as a writer.

The Lectureship, sponsored by the Mississippi College English Department, is named in honor of Sue Price Lipsey of Clinton, a member of the English faculty from 1946 until 1974. The lectures are free and open to the public.

## Couples meeting has space

Space is yet available for the "Marriage for all Seasons" fall festival program at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Oct. 23-25. This renewal celebration for couples of all ages will feature Thomas Meigs, professor of pastoral

care at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City. Cost is \$130 per couple. Write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571, including \$60 per couple deposit.



## ARE YOU A BORED-AGAIN CHRISTIAN?

If you are, come to the

## YouthPlus Sunday School Conference for fellowship, information and motivation

Oct. 19, 7-9:30 p.m. (for volunteer Sunday School workers)

Oct. 20, 10-3:00 p.m. (for professional youth ministers)

Baptist Building, Jackson

For additional information call: 968-3800, Sunday School Dept.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department

Keith Wilkinson, director

Chester Vaughn, program director

"A service of the Cooperative Program"

## Letters to the editor



### The pope's visit

Editor:

I am writing to make a small response to your editorial entitled, "Two Presidents and the Pope." I think that you made a very thoughtful and consistent response in your editorial. However, I would like to take exception to one thing. "The adoration of the Catholic community for the Pope is to be admired, even though misguided." The word, "adoration," is a complete distortion of what any Catholic would feel toward Pope John Paul II, or any pope. Reverence, respect, obedience, and even, at times, exaggerated deference mark our relationship with the pope. Never would even our most extreme zealots put the relationship to the pope in any category approaching adoration.

(Rev.) Robert A. Dalton

We surely stand corrected. Bob Dalton is a Catholic priest and once official Southern Baptist liaison man for Catholics. In that capacity he has made many friends, including this editor, among Southern Baptists for himself and for his church. He attends every Southern Baptist Convention and every meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. He was a member of the committee that arranged the details of the pope's visit to Columbia, S.C. — Editor

### Helpful conference

Editor:

Recently, in Louisville, Miss., we had a Teenage Sexual Awareness Conference led by Dr. Paul Jones of our state Christian Action Commission. He was able to speak in two of our

local high schools as well as a conference for our churches at night. Dr. Jones did a tremendous job in relating and communicating with our youth about some difficult subject matters.

I would like to express my appreciation and belief that we have one of the best Christian Action Commissions in the SBC.

Terry Cutrer,  
South Louisville Baptist  
Church

### Amory anniversary

Editor:

First Baptist Church, Amory, is seeking information on former members and memorabilia, as it prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary May 14-15, 1988.

Former members or those who know the address of any former member are asked to forward this as well as old photos and the like to Centennial Committee, First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 540, Amory, MS 38821.

Jerry W. Massey  
Pastor

### Need in Germany

Editor:

On Oct. 18, 1987, the Trinity Baptist Church in Baumholder, West Germany, will celebrate 29 years of service to God and the English-speaking community in this part of the world. Our church is the oldest English-language church in this community of 22,000 Americans and over 5,000 German nationals and is among the oldest in the entire European Baptist Convention.

Our church began in 1958 when six

American service men and their families became burdened for those around them who had no Baptist church in which to worship. Since that time, the Trinity Baptist Church has been a constant witness to military and civilian families here in Germany. Our vision includes the world, and we are enthusiastic supporters of the world-wide missions program of the European and Southern Baptist Conventions. We contribute 10 percent to our income through the Cooperative Program. We also contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and to the European Home Missions Offering. We also are involved in the many and varied ministries of the European Baptist Convention.

Last year our landlord of 22 years died. His heirs have decided to sell our church building. Obviously, we would like to buy it. Because we are small in numbers and our congregation is so transient, we are unable to secure a loan from the German bank. Normally, we would be able to secure some financing from the loan fund of the European Baptist Convention, but, those funds are not available. The building will be sold on January 1, 1988. The purchase price is 450,000.00 Deutsch Marks or \$250,000.00 (at today's rate of exchange). Since our humble beginnings almost 500 men, women, and young people have publically professed Christ in this place. Of those, many have paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of freedom.

Trinity Baptist Church  
Postfach 64  
6587 Baumholder  
West Germany

## 15 - Passenger Church Vans

We specialize in Church Vans, both 12 and 15 passenger. We sell to all churches for factory cost plus \$145.00 for service. We also carry used Vans. Call for more information. Ask for Reggie Frierson. (601) 798-8682.

P.S. We also have a special lease plan for the clergy on any Ford, Lincoln, or Mercury.

Dub Herring Ford-Lincoln - Mercury  
Picayune, MS 39466.

## COBE II Experience The Excitement

The top scholars of our time will come together at the second Congress on Biblical Exposition (COBE II) to teach pastors and lay people how to more effectively communicate the Word of God. Join us March 7-10, 1988, at The Fellowship of Excitement in Houston, Texas, for four days of worship, seminars, discussion groups and workshops.

### COBE II Speakers

Ray Stedman, COBE Chairman  
H. Edwin Young, Pastor, The Fellowship of Excitement

Tony Evans	Adrian Rogers
Howard Hendricks	John Stott
J.I. Packer	Chuck Swindoll
Ben Patterson	Jerry Vines
and many more	

For more information on COBE II, call 713/465-3408 and ask for the COBE office.





Keep  
asking  
God

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150,

Dear POWERLINE:

Listening to your comments on Christ and life the other night made a lot of sense. There are many times when I am so messed up about life and my purpose on earth. I keep asking God, why am I here? What am I to accomplish? If one does not live and do right in his life then why did God make us? He knew how the world was going to be, how its going to end, who will suffer on earth — who will perish forever in hell — he knew all this and yet he went ahead and made us — though he didn't need any of us.

POWERLINE Answers:

What makes you think that God "didn't need any of us?" If God is personality, and I think He is, then a person needs other persons to fulfill the nature of his own personality. Love needs the beloved. And a creative God seems to me as almost bound to create. It ought to be the most logical thing in the world for him to have made us in his spiritual image even though the struggles between what we are and what we ought to be are so great.

There must always be a gap between where we are and where we'd like to be. Our aspirations make us reach for more than we can touch. And who would want it to be any other way? God's Kingdom grows very slowly. Jesus announced that. And Christians start off as babes, not mature adults. So we make progress ever so slowly. But when you turn and look back over the centuries you begin to realize that in many ways the Christian heaven has seasoned the earth.

## Baptists have slide victims in Venezuela

(Continued from page 4)

lesia Bautista El Amor de Dios — The Love of God Baptist Church — in Maracay. Adams was commissioned as a permanent civil defense chaplain.

By Sept. 9, all evangelical churches in the area had organized a committee to work together in a united relief effort. They established three disaster relief centers. Evan Cordoza, pastor of Central Baptist Mission, headed one of the centers, assisted by his fellow Baptist pastor, Arey.

Each center has distributed food, medicine, clothing and fresh water. Of the 30 evangelical pastors involved, 10 are Venezuelan Baptist pastors.

The Venezuela Baptist Convention provided mattresses for families that had lost everything. Churches all over Venezuela sent food, clothing and other supplies to help the mudslide victims. Churches also have contributed about \$2,000 to support the relief efforts.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board disaster relief funds were earmarked for Maracay relief efforts. Future possibilities include using FMB funds and volunteer labor to rebuild a school that was destroyed. Tennessee Baptist construction teams might be used to rebuild homes.

The evangelical center, located at a free church seminary in El Limon, had distributed more than 10,000 meals during the three weeks following the mudslide. More than 100 volunteers — students and faculty at the seminary and evangelical church members — have worked in teams to

help victims.

A Christian psychologist, Mark Maldonado, has been enlisted to train the pastors to do crisis counseling, using some of the materials that were used in similar disasters in Armero, Colombia, and Quito, Ecuador.

### Miss. member

(Continued from page 7)

other Baptist groups that form the Baptist Joint Committee.

Besides the meeting having an adversarial atmosphere, Mrs. Hughes said the main issue was "accountability." She said the PAC was trying to respond to complaints from Southern Baptists concerning staff activities and "we were rebuffed at every turn."

Mrs. Hughes said that the budget the group was asked to vote on was not presented in any useful way, that they were asked to simply add 15 percent on to the present budget and vote.

Said Mrs. Hughes, "I didn't go into this with any preconceived notions about the BJC. What I saw was a spirit of uncooperativeness and by the time the meeting was over, I had the feeling it didn't matter what the Southern Baptists brought to the floor, they were going to oppose it."

Asked if she would consider a call from John Binder of the North American Baptists to meet to resolve differences, she said, "not really. I feel we gave it our best shot."

## Hospital volunteer, nears 81, only six years into new career

By Tim Nicholas

Phil Edge's wife Susie was dying from a heart attack in Delta Medical Center in Greenville. He'd retired 10 years earlier from a successful life as a building contractor, with preaching on the side.

"You think God's put you on the shelf," Susie told him. "But you're wrong, you're going to be chaplain here." During her two month stay in the hospital, she would tell him to go visit others "and give them a little comfort."

Three days before she died, one of the nurses suggested he serve as unofficial chaplain. On his first visit, the patient told him, "I'm dying and go-



Phil Edge

ing to hell." Edge won him to the Lord and later preached his funeral.

After a few weeks of visiting patients, a doctor whose father was in the cardiac care unit asked Edge why he didn't become an official chaplain. Edge replied he needed to be appointed by the administrator. Word was passed along and Edge was appointed by hospital administrator Bill Sellers, with trustee approval.

Sellers told the Baptist Record that the center has gotten "very good patient response" from Edge. "He's an integral part of our operation. We appreciate him very much," said Sellers.

Edge, who will be 81 on Dec. 23, is still on duty. He checks in on all surgery patients, having prayer with them before surgery, and visiting with family afterwards. He also visits all new patients, offering a verbal witness.

His records show nearly 300 professions of faith in six years and he's performed a number of weddings, including one for a couple who felt that since their first ceremony was a civil one and since Edge had won the man to the Lord, he wanted to have a Christian ceremony.

Edge gets \$50 per month for gasoline expenses from his home church, Southside in Greenville, and some friends also help out. Briefly the hospital gave him \$125 a month for car expenses, but an accountant told the hospital to stop that practice, said Edge. Otherwise, Edge is fully volunteer.

Hospital chaplaincy isn't his only ministry, though. He gets calls for



Phil Edge, who has no children, laughs with Martha Dobbs, who adopted him and whose parents he knew before she was born. She brought food to Edge's wife in the hospital and as they visited, they saw Susie crying. "Martha, I'm dying and I don't have anybody to leave to look after him." "I'll look after him," said Martha. The next day Susie went into a coma and later died.

counseling over the phone, where people won't give their name, but need help. Edge doesn't turn them down. And he's working through the government's amnesty program to help a couple of illegal aliens. And he recently spoke to the nursing students at Delta State on being active after 65 and on dealing with grief.

Three times himself a patient in the cardiac unit, Edge opens his shirt to show the nitro patch that prevents a heart attack. He has high blood pressure and his own doctor tells him to make rounds for an hour at the time, then take a rest.

"Sometimes I don't," he says, almost conspiratorily. "We have a lot of people from out of town who don't have a minister. They call me to talk with them and pray with them." He adds, "You can't leave a person like that."

Besides, he says, "I don't feel my age since I've gone back to work. I don't feel old." Ministry was always in Edge's heart, perhaps from about age four when he picked up his granddaddy's Bible and preached to the chickens in the yard. At age nine, he made a profession of faith in Raleigh during a revival led by George Truett, but his mother wouldn't let him be baptized.

Then at age 17, in Richmond, he

made his faith public and was baptized, telling his pastor he was being called to preach. The pastor said to go to seminary and he'd have the church license him. His Sunday School teacher said the same thing. Edge says he never felt led to seminary. "That led me to become a backslider," says Edge. And shortly thereafter, he became a real tramp, wandering the countryside as a hobo for six years. He's not interested in giving details of that life, but he will admit, "It was miserable."

He came to Mississippi to pick cotton and was hired to help build some shotgun houses. He saved the money from that job to buy carpenter's tools, then a van, and continued his building work. He later designed the first phase of Elysian Fields Church in New Orleans.

Edge tells of attending a revival with his wife Susie in 1947 near Dallas where he was building house. He went against his will, but felt the preacher talking only to him. He reaffiliated himself with the church and made public his call to preach.

Since that time, he has been interim of a number of churches, and was full time pastor only once — at Gooden Lake in Belzoni. However, he says, "I was a contractor so I could live, but preaching got my best attention."

## "Charismatic" church dismissed

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — Missouri's Greene County Baptist Association dismissed Rolling Hills Baptist Church from its membership Sept. 22.

The Springfield congregation was charged with deviating from the association's "historic interpretation of Scripture" in reference to glossolalia, or "speaking in tongues."

Noting "a delicate balance between freedom of conscience and doctrinal

integrity," an associational news release said, "The association must stand on the side of sound doctrine and say lovingly but firmly that modern 'charismatic' doctrines do not fit with basic New Testament theology."

Speaking in tongues by Rolling Hills members and their belief that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is separate from salvation have been points of concern within the association since 1985.



# May I invite you into my battles?

By Billie Buckley

This morning I read again from II Kings and these thoughts developed: Prosperity and problems are a certainty in my life. Downer Days will show up on my calendar.



My faith and my anguish do battle with each other. Grief can turn into gladness. In the meantime . . . how can I cope? How can my faith win over my anguish? May I suggest the following coping combats to be used as you at least stand up in your battles? Allow yourself to grieve, but be sure you are grieving for that which is worthy of your sorrow. Get angry as long as it is not for eternity!

Don't give yourself permission to lose hope. If you can't shout, then whisper over and over again, "It is well, it is well with my soul." Get yourself off your emptiness and onto God's fullness.

Keep the faith. How can you do this? Remember Jesus' words when tempted . . . "It is written" . . . "It is written" . . . "It is written." Open your Bible and stake your claim. Then learn to multiply . . . Your small faith x God power = strength for the day.

Don't pain all those around you. Show your vulnerability but not to the point of making others miserable.

Prove the power of God by saying little. Take action. Act on the principle that for every evil the Lord has an antidote. Error can be neutralized by the truth of the gospel and the grace of God.

Seek help from the right folks as your faith and anguish do battle. Shun mistrust of others. This only produces vain activity which is useless and unproductive.

Know that for Christian healing, mighty prayer must take place. Let prayer become the practical thing for you and not the impractical thing that the world sees it as.

Begin to see things that are worthy of your gratitude. Go to God with this gratitude and not your complaining.

This will work. You can trust me. I know, because I have battle scars.

Billie Buckley (Mrs. Gerald) lives in Petal. She is wife of the pastor of Petal-Harvey Church.

## Christian Life Commission opens Washington office

By Tim Fields

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has opened an office here in an effort to expand its involvement in and witness to the nation's capital, according to N. Larry Baker, executive director of the moral concerns agency.

The office, located in the Railway Labor Building near the Capitol and Senate office buildings, will be manned on a part-time basis by current staff of the commission who will commute from home offices in Nashville.

Commissioners of the agency voted unanimously in their 1986 annual meeting to open the Washington office as soon as funds were available.

Although the commission did not receive additional funding which it requested from the convention for the 1987-88 budget year, reallocation of funds in the 1987-88 operating budget made the expansion possible.

The commission has asked the convention for a permanent allocation of \$150,000 beginning with the 1988-89 budget year to fund a full-time Washington-based staff for the office.

Establishment of a CLC office in the nation's capital also was supported by a special fact-finding committee of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee which reviewed the convention's participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The special committee encouraged trustees of the CLC "to continue the consideration of opening a Washington office to deal with appropriate moral and social concerns within its program statement."

The CLC is responsible for all social and moral concerns except separation of church and state and religious liberty issues, which are addressed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Public Affairs Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Several legislative priorities are clear in the months ahead," Baker said. "We will continue to work aggressively for the passage of the Danforth Amendment. We will also give close attention to several pieces of pending legislation related to gambling and matters related to the abortion issue. In addition to a bill restricting 'dial-a-porn,' a major anti-pornography bill may be introduced soon."

According to Baker, Larry Braidfoot, who has directed the CLC's citizenship program for the past six years, will have primary responsibility for the Washington office and will travel to Washington with increased frequency.

Establishment of the Washington office comes on the heels of expanded involvement by the commission in recent months in the nation's capital.

Commission staff presented testimony on Capitol Hill twice in recent months, joined itself to testimony offered by another organization in recent weeks, and has supported the Danforth Abortion Neutral Amendment.

The address for the CLC Washington office is: Christian Life Commission, 400 First Street, Northwest, Washington, DC 20001.

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### In China, "the ripples widen"

"Americans are urged to learn about the Christians of China" was the name of an article on Page 1 of the Sept. 10 Baptist Record. Lillian Abrams (Mrs. Joe) called me the next week and said, "I visited the Muen Church in Shanghai this summer, the same one mentioned in the article!"

Soon afterward, on my way to Duck Hill, I stopped at Mrs. Abrams' house to hear about her trip. She still lives at 2921 Highway 82E, Apt. 3B, Greenwood, where she and Joe were living before his death earlier this year. She is a member of Immanuel Church, Greenwood. While I listened, I looked out her windows at a field edged with goldenrods and ate her chicken casserole, which was even better than the view.

Of the 22 in her tour group, she said, she was the only Mississippian. Lavell Seats, professor of missions at Midwestern Seminary, was tour leader.

Enroute they spent a night in Tokyo and on the way back they visited Hong Kong. It rained on them every day but two. For 75 cents, though, Mrs. Abrams bought a big hat, that made a good umbrella (see photo.)

In Shanghai, she saw many bicycles, many piles of watermelons — and many people. There in China's largest city live 18 million. She read an article printed in a Shanghai newspaper about the 1,000 (at least) injuries people had suffered from slipping on watermelon rinds in the parks and streets. "The streets looked neat to me," Mrs. Abrams said. "I didn't see any rinds laying about."

In Shanghai there are 23 Protestant churches. The Muen Church, which she and her fellow travelers visited, is one of them. Since denominations have been abolished in China, she said, most of the Protestant churches offer two forms of baptism, either sprinkling or immersion.

At the Muen Church, a laywoman, Kao Yu-Xin, talked to the group about the church's past, and about some of its present activities. During the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when Christians were being persecuted, the church was closed, she said. The pastor, Shi Qigui, was sent to work as a blacksmith. But in 1979, it was reopened and the government gave the church money to redo the building and restore it to its role as a place of worship. Young people helped to do the remodeling, and refinished the



Lillian Abrams of Greenwood displays her Chinese hat and the panda figurines she bought at a factory. She saw real pandas at the zoo in Beijing.

pews.

Among the 3,000-member church's activities now, in addition to Sunday services, is a reading and writing class for women and a large well-attended Tuesday Bible study.

When the pastor, Shi Qigui, the Muen pastor, was touring the U.S. this summer (as the Baptist Record article pointed out), he said that now "Christians are allowed to worship freely and share their faith . . . Jesus never left China."

An estimate on a travel brochure Mrs. Abrams showed me said there are 4,000 churches and more than 4 million Christians in China today, or five times as many churches as when Southern Baptist missionaries left there in 1949.

The October-November Commission, filled with stories of Christians in China, includes one about Muen

Church and its pastor. (If you want to read a moving account, look at page 41 and read about the reopening of this church in 1979, when the pastor sat down at the old piano and played the first hymn.) Shi Qigui is quoted as saying that Shanghai Christians know that the 23 Protestant churches are "a drop of water in the ocean. But even a drop splashes. And the ripples widen."

Mrs. Abrams said she was told that more young people in China now are turning to Christianity than to Buddhism.

The group also visited churches in Nanjing, Beijing, and Quanzhou. In the Mo Chon Road Church at Nanjing they saw a double wedding. Also they toured the Jinling Union Theological Seminary, one of eleven regional seminaries, where they met Chen Zemin, the vice president. He told them that during the Cultural Revolution the seminary's books were destroyed. A Baptist before denominations were done away with, he was sent during "the dark period" to work in a factory. This seminary was the first Protestant one to reopen after the Cultural Revolution. Mrs. Abrams said she learned that this school offers a Bible teachers' correspondence course in which 40,000 are enrolled.

Because the younger grew up in a sort of "spiritual vacuum," Chen Zemin explained, nearly all the pastors are old, 65 or 70 or more.

Boat trips for the tour group included the Yangtze and Li Rivers. On the latter, they watched people fish with cormorants on leashes. "The men would let a bird catch seven fish," Mrs. Abrams said, "and then they'd let the bird eat one fish."

To her the Great Wall was impressive, not only for its size, but for the number of people she saw squeezed along the top of it! "People there, and people everywhere. In the airports we all had to hold hands to keep from getting lost in the crowd."

In Beijing, and in other cities too, she saw many apartment buildings and heard someone remark that in another ten years the old China will be gone and everyone will be living in apartments.

To learn more about today's Christians in China, call Mrs. Abrams or another who has visited or lived in China, read the current Commission, — or visit China.

### MBMC to sponsor Religious Emphasis



Rhymes

Religious Emphasis Week at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, sponsored by BSU, will be Oct. 21-22 at 12:15. The special speaker is Don Rhymes, minister of evangelism



at First Church, Jackson. Testimonies will be given by students and faculty along with special music. Jo Flowers, a Jackson Bible teacher, will be speaking Oct. 15 to all students for

spiritual preparation for the week. Susan Payne (left), medical technology student, and Dawn McNeil, radiology student, will emcee the program.



## Names in the News



Mrs. Sarah Golden was honored at DeKalb Church, DeKalb, Sept. 20, for her 64 years as church pianist. She has been a member of the church since 1923 and has been church pianist since that time, for a total of 24 pastors. She was presented a corsage, a gift by the Rebecca Sunday School class, and a plaque by Matt Taylor, chairman of deacons. All of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were present. A covered dish dinner followed the morning service.

Pictured, from left, are Richard Hill, pastor, and Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Golden, and Taylor.

Mrs. Julia Sills, former secretary with the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is the new church secretary at First Church, Florence. George E. Meadows is pastor.

Dan Speights of Columbia has traveled to Bermuda to help string power lines there following the Sept. 25 Hurricane Emily. Speights is a member of Emmanuel Church, Columbia and works for Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association. Seven other volunteers went from Oklahoma, Texas, and Tennessee.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA) — Elizabeth (Beth) Hayworth-MacClaren of McLean, Va., has been named executive director of the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance.

Ms. MacClaren, 63, has been minister of outreach and adult education at McLean Baptist Church since 1979. She will assume her new post on Nov. 2, the date for this year's observance of Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.

Stephen Spraberry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Spraberry, was presented a plaque and an addition to his attendance pin for seven years perfect attendance in Sunday School at Bradfords Chapel Church, Calhoun County.

Stephen, 13, and is in eighth grade at Eupora School, Webster County.

## Staff Changes

Will McRaney, Jr. has accepted the call as pastor of Jackson Avenue Church in Pascagoula. McRaney, a native of Panama City, Fla., grew up in Natchez. He later played football at Mississippi State and also pitched for the State baseball team.

McRaney previously served at Faith Church in Starkville as minister of youth and college. Since beginning New Orleans Seminary in March of 1986, he is presently working on a master of divinity degree.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hayes McRaney, Sr., of Natchez and is married to the former Sandy Vandevender of Pascagoula.

Parkhill Church, 4862 McRaven Road, Jackson, extended a call Sunday, Oct. 4, to Woodrow Clark, retired minister of Clinton, to serve as interim pastor.

Jerry W. Smith, former minister of education and outreach, East McComb Church, McComb, has been called as minister of education and outreach of First Church, Florence.

Smith is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Jane, have a daughter, Julie, and a son, Jeremy.

The Smith's first Sunday with First Church, Florence was Oct. 11. George Meadows is pastor.

Scott Smith, age 24, accepted the call as youth minister at Corinth Church, Heidelberg, on Sept. 27.

Smith, a native of Olah and a previous member of Olah Baptist Church, is a junior at William Carey College.

## Gary Gunderson, Seeds co-founder, resigns

ATLANTA (BP) — Gary Gunderson, executive director and co-founder of Seeds, has announced his resignation from the 10-year-old organization.

Gunderson will leave Seeds, an organization that helps Christians fight world hunger, effective Jan. 15. He will pursue doctoral studies, especially in Third World nutrition.

Gunderson and Andy Loving launched Seeds from the basement of Oakhurst Church, Decatur, Ga., with the aim of educating their church and Southern Baptists about hunger issues. Neither of them received salary for the first two years of their

ministry.

The organization pushed to have World Hunger Day set on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar. The Seeds ministry assists Christians with resources, strategies, and encouragement to respond to hunger issues.

Gunderson said he has no plan to leave hunger concerns, even though he is leaving Seeds. He said he wants to teach and will concentrate on economic, agricultural and human development in Third World countries. He also plans to contribute to the Seeds ministry through writing and speaking.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Oct. 19 Area Secretaries Conference, N. Oxford, BC, Oxford; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)  
YOUTHPLUS Conference; Baptist Building; 7-9:30 p.m. (SS)  
Oct. 20 Area Secretaries Conference; Easthaven BC, Brookhaven; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)  
Oct. 22 YOUTHPLUS Conference; FBC, Starkville; 7-9:30 p.m. (SS)  
Oct. 23-24 Black Baptist Fall Convention; Camp Garaywa; 7 p.m. 23rd-5 p.m. 24th (SW)

## Revival Dates

Glendale (Alcorn): Oct. 18-21; Kara Blackard, evangelist, Wheeler Grove, Corinth; Dexter Benjamin, music evangelist, Wheeler Grove, Corinth; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Cossey, pastor.

Wildwood, Clinton: Oct. 18-21; Sunday night, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Frank Thomas, pastor, Alta Woods, Jackson, evangelist; Fred Womack, pastor; Wildwood is located on Springridge Road 2 miles south of I-20.

White Bluff (Marion): Oct. 18-21; Eddie King, evangelist; James E. Branton, music; Mack Davis, pianist; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with dinner served at noon; Mon.-Wed.; 7 p.m. Marvin Graham, pastor.

Woodhaven, Ocean Springs: Oct. 18-23; 7 p.m. nightly; Ed McDaniel of Jackson, evangelist; Burl Cooley, music evangelist; Sharon Cooley, pianist; Tracy Martin, pastor.

First, Pearl: Oct. 18-22; 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Futral, pastor, Broadmoor, Jackson, evangelist; L. Graham Smith, Morrison Heights, Clinton, music; Stanley B. Barnett, pastor.

Calvary, Batesville: Oct. 18-21; starts Sunday evening; Bob Hill, pastor, Calvary, Cleveland, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, music; A. Harrison Weger, pastor.

Mount Vernon, Meridian: Oct. 18-23; services, 7:30 nightly; George Ratz, home missionary, Erie, Penn., originally from Poland; Charles R. Davis, pastor.

## Homecomings

Oloh, Sumrall: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; James Sanders, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch at noon and singing by local talent and guest quartet; Keith Owens, minister of music; Doug Benedict, interim pastor.

Chunky, Chunky: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., morning worship, 11 a.m.; Carlton Jones, pastor of Chunky Church from 1966 through 1970, guest speaker; Danny Worsham, former minister of music and youth at Chunky, music; lunch served in family life building.

Mount Carmel, Edinburg: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m. worship service, 11; Kim Wolverton, pastor, message; covered dish lunch served in fellowship hall at noon; the Pearl Singers will present afternoon program beginning at 1:30.

Gooden Lake (Humphreys): Oct. 18; guest speaker and singer for the services will be Buddy Hampton of Eunice, La.; services, 11 a.m. with dinner on the grounds following; assisting with the 2 p.m. singing will be Frank Reel of Belzoni; David Blackwell, pastor.

Calvary, Batesville: 35th anniversary, Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship celebration, 10:45 a.m.; program includes moments of "I Remember" by members and former members; morning message by Allen Parnell, one of the preachers ordained and sent out by Calvary; other ministers ordained and sent out are Gary Crowell, Melvin Crawley, and Jimmy Anthony; Glenda Brooks Davis serves as a missionary to the Philippines; covered dish luncheon, noon; A. Harrison Weger, pastor; revival services, Oct. 18-21 (see Revival Dates).

Strayhorn, Sarah: Oct. 18; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Claude Howe, Jr., New Orleans Seminary, morning message; dinner on the grounds will follow; afternoon service of music and celebration at 2 p.m. with the Praisemen from Senatobia and Strayhorn Church adult choir; no evening services; Jim Pinkerton, pastor.

Briarwood, Meridian: Oct. 18; 20th anniversary; Thomas J. Wood, pastor, will mark his 20th year at Briarwood, and has been a pastor 46 years; Sunday School, 9:45; worship service, 10:45; dinner will follow at 12:00 noon.

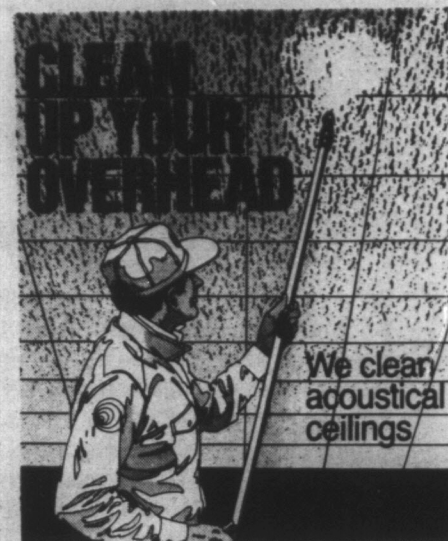
Pearl Valley, Wesson: Oct. 25; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, morning message; covered dish luncheon will follow, the Deacon Quartet, from Monticello, will have charge of afternoon service starting at 1:30; M. L. Douglas, pastor.

Cash (Scott): Oct. 18; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon service following lunch; Jack Bailey, former pastor, preacher; John Yates, Jackson, music; Jim Pender, pastor.

## Missionary News

Billy and Gerry Colston, missionaries to Korea, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Yeo Eui Do, P. O. Box 165, Seoul 150, Korea). He was born in Kosciusko. She is the former Gerry Rutland of Amite, La.

Roger and Penny Stacy, missionaries to Brazil, have completed language study and may be addressed at Caixa Postal 24.144, 20.522 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. They are natives of Mississippi. Both consider Pontotoc their hometown.



We remove yellowing, smoke smudge, water marks and grease from acoustical ceilings — restore brightness and acoustic qualities.  
Call/write today for literature and free quotations.

**Coustic-Glo of Jackson**  
P. O. Box 9851  
Jackson, MS 39206  
PH. 366-5860  
**15% discount to churches**



**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**Pianos at Warehouse prices**

Exclusive dealers for  
Steinway - Kawai - Wurilitzer  
Weber - Kimball  
Financing Available  
MC/VISA/American Express

*Allegrezza*  
**Piano Company**  
226 Hwy. 51 N. Tim Kelly, Manager  
Ridgeland 856-2524

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**  
A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.  
"Internationally known specialists"  
**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.  
**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627  
**We remodel & paint**

**FOR CHARTER OR RENT**



**25 - or 47 - Passenger buses**

**BUS SUPPLY CO. INC.**  
McComb, MS 601-684-2900

**CHURCH STEEPLES**

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS  
ERECTION WITH COMPANY CRANES AND CREWS AVAILABLE  
WRITE OR CALL FOR COLOR LITERATURE AND PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE  
800-241-3152  
IN GEORGIA CALL COLLECT  
404-993-9960  
GLASSTECH PLASTICS INC.  
P.O. BOX 910  
ROSWELL, GA 30077



# Just for the Record



These are the participants in the recent Acteens Coronation at First Church, Jackson. Theme of the recognition banquet was "Diamonds by Design." Frances Tyler of Blue Mountain, speaker and author, was guest speaker. Pictured, front row left, are Gloria Crittenden, leader; queens: Cassie Anderson, Gaye Hederman, Courtney Mortimer, Emily Ashford, Dania Dewese, Laura Lundquist, Suzannah White; Linda Huff, leader; and Joan Fox, Acteens Director. . . . Second row from left are Rebeca Mills, leader; queens with scepter: Cathy Boone, Hayes Ellison, Stacy Heath, Holly Powell, Robin Richardson, Laura Stockett, and Amanda Prewitt; and Harriet Gregory, leader.



Girls in Action of Mt. Pisgah Church, Choctaw County, held a recognition service Sept. 20. The theme of the program was "Be Ye Doers." They had an international meal in fellowship hall.

Pictured, left to right, (back row) are Mrs. H. L. Prewitt, WMU director, Mrs. Jo Moore, GA leader, (second row) Teresa Maddox, Emma Murphy, (front row) Alicia Harwell, and Rachel Ray.



The churches in Benton and Tippah Associations held open house at its new Mission Center located at the corner of East First, and Commerce Streets in Ripley on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20. The reception was hosted by the WMU ladies from the two associations with Mrs. Stuart Calvert, Mrs. Lena Pearl Griffin, and Mrs. Carolyn Daniel coordinating the activities.

The building was constructed by volunteer workers sponsored by the Brotherhoods of the two associations. The WMU volunteered to put the final touches to the building such as cleaning, mini-blinds, drapes, pictures, plants, and furnishings for the kitchen. Earl Huitt, local building contractor served as construction supervisor. Members of the building committee are: Billy W. Baker, chairman, Edd McCafferty, Horace Thomas, J. B. Miskelley, Jim Ray, and Bob Calvert.

The building will provide office space for Harry K. Phillips, director of missions, and office secretary. These facilities have adequate space for storage, library, work room, large conference room, and will serve as a resource center for mission ministry sponsored by the 43 Baptist churches in the two associations.

"Feeling Fit and Fine" is the topic of a half day, free workshop to be presented Oct. 27 at St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital. "New Directions" is the third in a series of seminars for persons interested in planning for retirement and those already in retirement years. A similar workshop was held Oct. 13.

Ophthalmologists will discuss diseases of the eye. A bank officer will talk on financial planning. An exercise physiologist, will give facts on fitness after 50.

Home safety/shopping safety talks and a cooking demonstration will conclude the seminar.

Several health screenings will be available during the seminar, including: height, weight, glaucoma, and blood pressure.

For additional information or to preregister, contact Education Services, St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital, 364-6920.

James Richard Joiner, associate professor of music at Mississippi College will present a faculty voice recital Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. in Aven Fine Arts Auditorium on the Clinton campus. Patricia Walston, assistant professor of music, will accompany him. They will perform works by Brahms, Debussy, and Finzi. The recital is free.

Park Place Church, 5701 Highway 80 East, will be having its Fall Bible Conference beginning Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. and conclude Oct. 22.

Wayne Barber, former Mississippi pastor and now pastor of Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga, will lead in the conference. Larry Kulcke, minister of music, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson will lead the music.

Park Place Church is meeting in the educational annex auditorium during construction of its new auditorium. Bobby Williamson is pastor.

Calvary Church, Petal, will present Eternity in concert, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. Phil T. Harris is pastor.

## Resolutions requested in advance

Anyone wishing to present a resolution during the November meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is asked to submit them in writing so they can be run in the Baptist Record in advance of the convention.

Write to Resolutions Committee, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## CLASSIFIED

RATE 50c per word. \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**MALATESTA FUNERAL SERVICE** — Complete funeral and casket — \$895.00. We serve entire state. Call (601) 366-6565 or write: 103 W. Northside Dr., Jackson, MS 39206.

RA's of Gum Grove Church, (Lincoln) held a Bike-A-Thon for a local mission project. They rode six miles and raised \$171.00. Pictured, left to right, are, Wade Hall, Anson Smith, Todd Hall, Eric Wicker, Benji Sisco, Shannon Roberts, and Matt East. Thomas Wicker is pastor and Andy East is RA counselor.



## Ab Audio Services

Robert Burris  
Stan Dalton  
Owners



2600 O'Ferrell Place, Hattiesburg (Next to Shoney's Hwy 49S.)

"Pro Sound Leader"



"SOUND IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS"

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM  
DESIGNED CHURCH SOUND SYSTEMS

- Churches • Schools
- Auditoriums
- Equipment Rental
- Package PA Systems

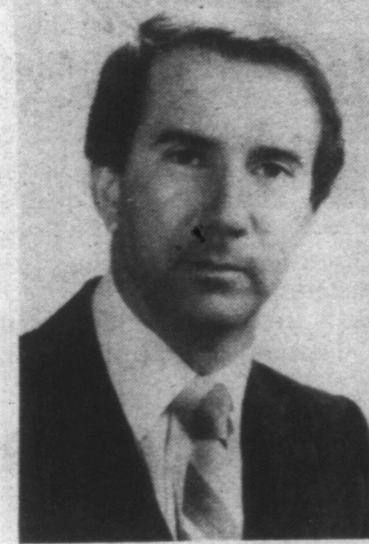
Sales - Service  
Installation

**268-1004**

## Fall Bible Conference October 18-22 7:00 o'clock each evening



Rev. Wayne Barber  
Chattanooga



Larry Kulcke  
Colonial Heights

*Park Place*

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor: Bobby Williamson  
Minister of music: Bob Coleman  
Interim minister of education: Keith Williams  
Minister to youth: Ted Dukes

5701 Hwy. 80 East, Brandon/Pearl

Approximately 2 miles from Jackson airport  
on Hwy. 80 East



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Adam and Eve sin; guilt and death enter picture

By Rex Yancey

Genesis 3:6-13, 15-17, 23

The writer of Genesis begins chapter 3 in the emphatic position, "Now the serpent." Suddenly, we are taken from the physical to the moral.



Yancey

Clyde Francisco said, "Man before the fall was sinless but not complete." The body and mind of Adam and Eve had reached completeness. However, the ideal man must be more than a sound mind with a healthy body.

The serpent appears without any history. Hinton Davis said, "A gate crasher, the serpent appears." The serpent had been made by Yahweh God. He had been given a name by Adam (2:19). He was the craftiest creature of all that God had made. He was not content to live outside the garden; therefore, he made an entry into it. The serpent was going to strip Adam and Eve like a beast strips a carcass.

Eve was tempted in three categories. The tree looked good for food, it was appealing to the eyes, and it would make her wise. Jesus,

### BIBLE BOOK

Christ was tempted in these same categories. Our temptation today comes from these same categories.

Eve rationalized when she was tempted. She left out the word freely in 3:2. She changed the location of the tree in 3:3. Eve added something in 3:3. God did not tell her not to touch the tree. He told her not to eat of it. She softened something in 3:3. The word "death" used here means that death is a possibility. God said death would be certainty.

In verse 7, the eyes of the couple were opened. They now knew of evil not only intellectually, but experientially. They had exercised their will against God. Satan did not stay after the yielding. He provided no consolation whatsoever for their plight. The problem here was more than pulling fruit from a tree. God would have been a peevish God if this were the case. He would be pronouncing death on a couple for pulling an apple from a tree. The punishment did not fit the crime. However, this was more

than an external event; it was internal. It was a repudiation of God. Even as we today exercise our will against God, we too are repudiating.

After the fall, shame and guilt entered the picture. Adam and Eve were suddenly hiding from God. Where they had known an intimate fellowship with God, they now feared him. Joe Tuten said, "It is a blessing to walk; it is a greater blessing to walk in a garden. It is a greater blessing to walk in a garden in the cool of the day. But it is a greater blessing to walk in a garden in the cool of the day with God." The consequences of sin are moral, spiritual, and mental.

God did not quit when his created couple sinned. God took the initiative with Adam and Eve. The offended sought the offender. The offended was willing to absorb the offense. It was a familiar voice in the garden that day. "Where are thou?" could be translated, "Where are you now? Where has your sin led you?" God's question elicited a response. It should have been a response of confession. However, it was a response of "passing the buck."

Verse 15 contains the first gospel message. It

is called the Protevangelism. God is going to bring a deliverer through the seed of the woman.

"Toil" is a new word introduced into man's vocabulary. Before the fall God had provided food, companionship, spiritual life, and a meaningful work. Now man will have to toil for food.

God said to Adam, "Now you are going to die." Man was capable of dying before he sinned. However, God gave him access to the tree of lives. But now, there is a rush to death. Now, there is a fear of death that is new.

To the woman, God said, "I will greatly multiply your pain." Pain must have already been there in the garden. The woman would desire for her husband. The husband would rule over her. This is something new that happened after the fall.

It wouldn't do for man to eat from the tree of lives and live forever in his condition. So God in his mercy as well as his justice drove the man from the garden. The tree of lives was not destroyed; it was guarded. That fact in itself offers a measure of hope to a fallen race.

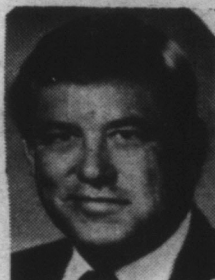
Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

## "Being right with God" — a child of God by faith

By Al Finch

Galatians 3:1-7, 21-25

A problem existed with the Galatian Christians in their departure from simple faith in Jesus Christ. In their apostasy they were not



Finch

acting out of their normal minds. They had been "bewitched" or hoodwinked. "Who" had bewitched them is a reference to people from Jerusalem called the Judaizers. Their teaching made obedience to the law a prerequisite to salvation. In Galatians, Paul seeks to refute this heresy. For our lesson there are three basic ideas proposed to the apostates.

There is first the Galatians' experience of grace (Galatians 3:1-5). Jesus Christ had been

### LIFE AND WORK

clearly pictured as "crucified among you." Their faith in this truth had brought them eternal life. Paul reminded them of their experience with six rhetorical questions. The questions are so arranged as to clarify that the reception of eternal life came by simple faith rather than by obedience to the law. Three references are made to the Spirit of God in their transformation. Life in the Spirit is another way of saying eternal life. This Spirit came to the Galatians by faith and not by law. Paul was saying the Galatians "couldn't do it by themselves." Eternal life came to them by faith. Works of the law would be a departure from their beginnings in faith.

Another idea proposed was Abraham's example (Galatians 3:6-7). Quoting Genesis 15:6,

Paul suggested that eternal life has always been by faith. Abraham believed God and thereby obtained righteousness. For Paul the issue was definite and not to be questioned. Abraham predated law; he came to God by simple faith. God's promise to Abraham was contingent on faith and not race. Those who came to God by faith are the children of Abraham. All of God's promises were made on the basis of Abraham's faith. Those who came to God by faith are the recipients of all of God's promises.

Paul's explanation of this life by faith is given in Galatians 3:21-25. God's promises to Abraham were not dependent upon obedience to the law. No law had ever been given that could bring life.

The law was temporary, but not without purpose. It made man aware of his sin. The law restrained actions, it was a moral and social necessity but it could lead only to despair. In

that despair men turned from their own efforts to the grace of God by faith.

Paul did not see law and faith as contradictory or competitive but actually complementary. Law gave the diagnosis but faith in Christ alone could give the cure. In ancient times a guardian, usually an old slave, was given responsibility for taking the children to the teacher. The guardian was not the teacher, his role was finished when the child came to the teacher.

Now that Christ has come, the law loses its function. Faith in Christ negates the purpose of the law. What had been temporary had to give way to the permanent. The two could not exist at the same time as was suggested by the Judaizers. Faith frees the believer from the law; he is a child of God "by faith in Jesus Christ."

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

## You can always trust him; he will always provide

By Julian W. Fagan III

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-2, 9-14

He laughed and she laughed, they all laughed. For a ninety year old woman to give birth to a child is nothing short of amazing. The time



Fagan

was a joyful one, so happy they named the baby "he laughed." This is the meaning of Isaac's name. Abraham is 100 and Sarah is 90; that says a lot for their relationship and how they continued to love one another. Now they had a son of their own, an heir that God had promised. Once again God proved faithful to his promise.

The first two or three years must have been filled with constant joy. Can you imagine the way people reacted as they saw 90-year-old nursing a baby? Consider how they must have listened as the parents told the story of God's promise and his faithfulness. God must have laughed as he saw the reactions of all those people and rejoiced as some of them must have trusted the God of Abraham and Sarah.

As the boy grew to the age of weaning (between two and three years was customary in the ancient Near East), jealously crept into the camp as Sarah observed Ishmael and realized

### UNIFORM

he was a potential threat to the inheritance of Isaac. Ishmael was about 14 at this time (Gen. 16:16), and he and his mother were sent away by Sarah. Abraham was grieved at the loss of this son, but he accepted God's assurance that through Isaac his offspring would come. Many days Abraham spent must have been filled with thoughts about this son who was sent away.

Some time later, God tested Abraham. This time it was with the remaining son, the one God had promised. The request was very hard, even unlike God, it seems. He asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son whom he loved. The sacrifice was to be as a burnt offering. How can that make any sense? God calls the man, promises him heirs — heirs through which the world will be blessed, heirs who are to be so numerous they will be like stars in the sky — then drives away one son, and orders Abraham to kill the boy of his old age and the only heir he has. Talk about testing!

God's word indicates that Abraham did not delay in responding to God's command. He rose early the next morning, took two servants and Isaac, and began the three day trip. Can you even imagine what they talked about by the fire at night or as they walked during the day? What

a heavy time in this man's life. But something is different about Abraham in this test. He now is over a hundred years old. He has been following God specifically for over 25 years. God has told him many things and each has come out exactly as God had said. Abraham now trusts God. He even tells his servants as he and Isaac leave for the top of Moriah that, "We will come back to you." He tells his son that, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering."

Some will argue that we only have part of the story recorded here or that God did not really tell Abraham to sacrifice his son, but we must take God's word as he has provided it. God has told us exactly what happened and the change is not in the account of the story but in the man Abraham. He had come to trust God — even with the life of his son. Something happens to a person who walks with God for a long period of years. God repeatedly demonstrates his faithfulness. When a man knows God that well, he simply believes God and trusts him to provide. The outrageous circumstances do not matter. God is in control. He had already produced a son from two bodies that could not produce a son, and he could even bring one back from death if he so chose.

Our struggles in life should not be with the nature of what God asks us to do. God never asks us to do what is wrong. He always seeks

to reveal to us where we are in relation to him. He already knew what Abraham would do. He wanted Abraham to know. He proved Abraham on that mountain. He proved him by testing his love for his son as opposed to his love and obedience to God. He was right to trust God and not his feelings. God demands our loyalty over everything else in life. He will never take second place, even to our family. Did not Jesus say, "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it."

Abraham proved his faith that day. He proved his worthiness to be the father of many nations because he trusted God completely. Do you realize what happened there? God provided the sacrifice. He always does. He just wants us to be willing to follow him wherever he asks us to go. He knows what is ahead and the tests we need to demonstrate we are truly his children.

No matter what the test you face in life, you can trust God to provide everything you need. The test are for our benefit, not his. He is faithful. He will always provide. You can always trust him.

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

Accredited by the National Association of Homes for Children  
Licensed by the State of Mississippi

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**September 24 -  
October 7, 1987  
MEMORIALS**

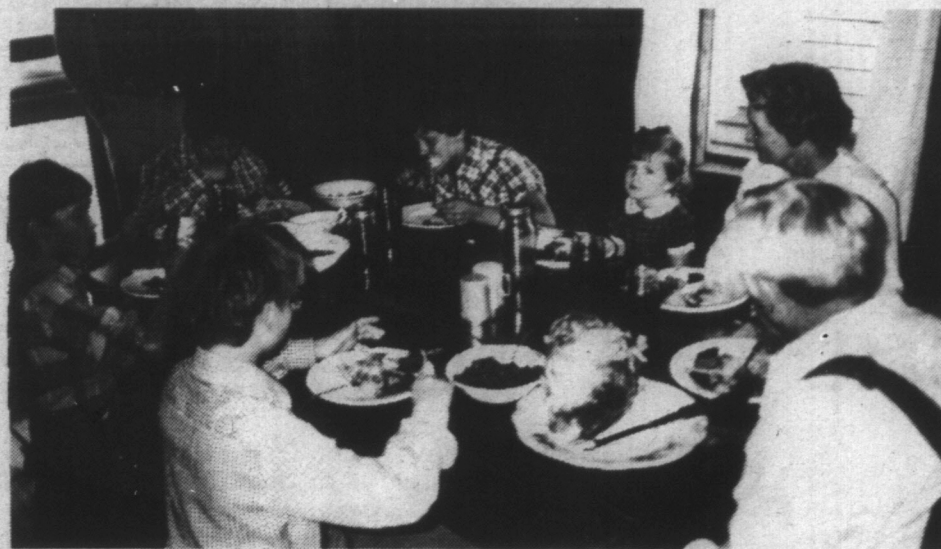
Mrs. Gladys Abernathy  
Sadie Ruth & Alvin Scott  
Alvin Adams  
Hobart & Hazel Daniels  
Miss Mary Deane Akers  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Draughn  
Mrs. B. R. Albritton, Jr.  
Mrs. Opal Osborn  
Mr. George W. Allen  
Mrs. Frank B. Hutton  
Officers & Directors of  
Trustmark National  
Bank  
Mary Allison  
Sam & Marjorie Carter  
Miss Glanara Anderson  
Ms. Pearl Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Albritton  
Mr. & Mrs. Badon  
Miss Virgie Hays  
Mr. Reggie Jones  
Mrs. George Anderson  
Mrs. Hazel Flora & Family  
Mrs. O. B. Anderson  
Mrs. Hazel P. Banister  
Ethel Andrews  
Ms. Mary V. Golding  
Mr. Ballard  
Deacons, Northside BC,  
Clinton  
Mrs. Henry Barber  
Mrs. Connie Beck  
Mr. Thompson Barlow  
Ms. Anne Anderson  
Mrs. Sam B. Bounds  
Mrs. Maggie Bates  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Till  
Mrs. Mabel Bauer  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence L.  
Morris  
Huey Q. Bell  
Ken & Betty Carpenter  
Mrs. Lizzie A. Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Grayson  
& Angie  
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn V. Lingle  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy L. Webb &  
Luke  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Little  
Mrs. Ada Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Kerley  
Charles D. "Pete" Blackstock  
Bud Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Davis  
Mr. H. L. (Shine) Breazeale  
Ladies #Sunday School, North  
Calvary BC, Philadelphia  
Claire Brewer  
Mrs. H. B. Orr  
Anniece Brown  
T. L. Barbara, Tobie, &  
Aprile Curry  
Lela Hester Bruce  
Mr. & Mrs. Willis H. Morgan  
Ruth Ann & Jesse H. Oswalt  
Mr. William Brunson  
Mrs. L. H. Fulcher Jr.  
Electa Burchfield  
Mr. & Mrs. David L.  
Valentine  
Mitchell Julian Cain  
Mrs. Frank Shawblosky  
Mr. J. E. Calhoun  
Friends at Forest Baptist  
Church  
Miller Camp  
Ms. Juanita L. Grimes  
John Alex Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Cade  
Mr. Frank Caperton  
George & Katherine Cooper  
Mrs. T. F. Stevens  
Mrs. Zula Carlisle  
Helen & Jim Smiley  
Mr. John Carney  
Mr. & Mrs. Mathis Holt

Mrs. Catherine P. Chatham  
Colonel James H. Chatham  
Mr. Walter Cole  
Dot & John Rollins  
Mrs. J. D. Crawford  
Stanton Baptist Church,  
Natchez  
Aaron Creekmore  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson  
Mr. Will Crouch  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Mrs. Clemmie Daughdrill  
Mr. & Mrs. T. F. Badon  
Cliff & Lynn Hurst  
Mrs. Charles O. (Geraldine R.)  
Dean, Sr.  
Mrs. Hilda M. Calhoun  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Frankel  
Mrs. Dorothy Morson  
Mrs. Duncan Cope  
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Aldridge Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ayres  
Mr. & Mrs. Jody Stovall  
Mr. & Mrs. Don R. Baker  
Jonathan Patrick Doler  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Stanford  
Mrs. Norene West  
Henry West  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Matt &  
Family  
Young Married Sunday  
School, Bethany BC,  
Slate Springs  
Herman Dye  
Ms. Mary V. Golding  
L. T. Easley  
Ima Sandifer  
Mildred Edmondson  
Mrs. Ann Beard  
Mrs. Belinda Hatten  
Mrs. Jo B. Rhett  
Mrs. Montye Edwards  
Skyward Sunday School,  
Highland BC, Meridian  
Mrs. Blanche Elrod  
Marguerite & Edwin Evans  
Mrs. Viola C. Ervin  
Providence BC Choir,  
Cleveland  
Ms. Martha J. Till  
Mr. J. D. Finch  
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Harmon  
Mrs. Miriam Carmichael  
Frank Elizabeth Drake  
Mr. Jasper Frazier  
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Rayburn  
Mr. Monroe Fryer  
Mrs. Jenny Cook  
Mrs. Ed Rush  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Williams  
Mr. Gene Ganiel  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
Little Jonathan Gatewood  
Friends at Forest Baptist  
Church  
Mrs. E. M. (Eleanor) Gay  
Mrs. Susan C. Wilson  
Mrs. Henry C. Allen  
Mrs. Dorothy Ann Gish  
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine  
W. R. Graham  
Mrs. Betty D. Jensen  
Mrs. Ophelia Granger  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy White &  
Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Vance E.  
Windom, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Vance Windham  
Jr. & Family  
Estelle Gray  
Ray V. & Linda Cantrell,  
Vince & Eve  
Melvin Green  
Mr. & Mrs. James W.  
Thompson  
Reba Griffith  
John & Paula Prine  
Mrs. Winnie Grimes  
Mrs. Frank Shawblosky  
Judge Carl Guernsey  
Frankie H. Warren  
Mrs. Amma J. Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. William A.  
Nichols

Mrs. G. W. Hamilton  
Mrs. E. E. Blakemore  
C. Leighton Hamric III  
Ms. Alva Merle Blanton  
Mrs. Lennie Herring  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Williams  
Mr. Grady Herrington  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Earl J. Hilliard  
Mrs. Mae G. Moon  
Mrs. Frank M. Caperton  
Mrs. Ida Hinton  
Mrs. Edna Earle Coats  
Mrs. Mamie Hinton  
Mrs. Richard Hanson  
Mr. W. A. (Bill) Huff, Sr.  
Friends at Forest Baptist  
Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Glaze  
Mrs. E. H. Hull  
Matthews & Company  
Myrna Bailey Hull  
Mr. & Mrs. David L.  
Valentine  
Mrs. Lon Irvin  
Ms. Peggy Williams  
Violet Y. Jacobs  
Sam & Marjorie Carter  
James L. Johnson  
Mattie Mai & Malcolm  
Curran  
Mrs. Maxine Johnson  
Mrs. Brock Craft  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff J. Dickerson  
Mr. & Mrs. Vardaman  
Ellington  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Hutchinson  
Mrs. Celeste Truitt  
Rev. Wylie Johnson  
Mrs. Selma M. Hoggatt  
Mrs. Vee Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Euee J.  
Grantham  
Mrs. Johnnie (Kathryn) Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. Noah M. Mills  
Lester Lane  
Ms. Mildred Raybon  
Jimmy & Doris Rogers  
Mrs. Joicy Ware Lathem  
Mrs. Tom Lane  
Mrs. E. L. Lawson, Sr.  
Glynn & Ben Powell  
Lisa Moseley  
Hilda McAdory  
Mr. Hilman Logan  
Leo Owens & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl B. Allen  
Kaye & Curtis Buchanan  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence L.  
Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. McDade,  
Willard & Clifford  
Mrs. Edgar Garrett  
Mr. Paul Mangum  
Ms. Cindy Harrington  
Mrs. Edith Mapp  
Dr. & Mrs. William B.  
Thompson  
Mrs. W. L. Marsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion  
& Wendy  
Webster Martin  
Harry Neal & Weezi Corder  
& Family  
Anne May  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Cupstid  
Joe McCain  
The Hugh Medders Family  
Mrs. Willie Mae McDaniel  
The Joe Bunch Family  
Friends of McAdams  
Mrs. Vessie McKenzie  
Mrs. Frances Smith  
Dan McLain  
Joe & Ruth Harbin  
Frank L. McLeMore  
Allene Chambers & Patty  
Tomlin  
Mr. Stance Merchant  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis F. Johnson  
Alma H. Messina  
Cleo, Marjorie, Melba, Willie  
G., & Kattee M. White

Mrs. Mary Lee Mize  
Dot & Andy Helton  
Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Mobley  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Linn  
Mrs. V. V. Mooneyham  
Crosby Baptist Church  
Mrs. Hazel Moore  
Mrs. Fern M. Lyter  
Billie S. Morton  
Mr. W. C. Hathorn  
Lisa Kemp Moseley  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Brandon  
Mrs. Hulett Springer's Father  
Young Married Sunday  
School, Bethany BC,  
Slate Springs  
Mr. H. C. Mullens  
Mr. Jeff D. Crisler  
Donald W. Northup  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Neely  
Jr.  
Mrs. Willie Mae O'Neal  
Mrs. James Simrall Jr.  
Melissa Palmer  
Bill, Doris, Brooke, Blake, &  
Brandy Stanley  
Mrs. Swiss Parker  
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis  
Mrs. Delia Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Willie B. Badon  
Melissa Parkman  
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Knight  
Walter Peterson  
Siloam Baptist Church,  
Meadville  
Buddy Potter  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Crowe  
Mrs. Mattie Potter  
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Hilderbrand  
Mrs. Lois Price  
Webb & Bessie Sue Boswell  
Mrs. Alice Prichard  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Williams  
Frank Prince  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Butler &  
Julie  
Valpo Rainwater & Melissa  
Palmer  
Ms. Betty L. Hall  
Valpo Rainwater  
Bill, Doris, Brooke, Blake,  
Brandy Stanley  
Mrs. Florrie Rawls  
John & Paula Prine  
Mrs. Cecil Reese  
Harry Neal & Weezi Corder  
& Family  
Thomas Paul Reid  
Arlington Heights BC,  
Pascagoula  
Mrs. Jewel Richmond  
Jack & Lynn Hardage  
Mr. Harley Robertson  
Mrs. Opal Osborn  
Mrs. Mattie Rogers  
Miss Edna P. Safley  
Mrs. Ruth Romydy  
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Henry  
Mrs. Marie A. Roper  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Allen  
Mrs. Susan C. Wilson  
Mrs. Dick Rosso  
Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Crain  
Mrs. Bertha Rushing  
Dr. & Mrs. William B.  
Thompson  
Mr. Howard Sanden  
Dr. & Mrs. William C.  
Warner  
Mrs. M. L. Sandling  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry O. West  
Ms. Bertie Scruggs  
Mrs. J. P. Taylor Sr. &  
Family  
Mrs. Zenobia Sheppard  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L.  
Craig  
Mrs. Vera Mae Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Berry  
Hopewell Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Little  
Mr. & Mrs. P. B. Little  
Mrs. Bonnie Shults  
Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Milling  
Calvin Sides  
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Arendale  
Buddy Smith  
Sr. Adult Sunday School,  
Siloam BC, Meadville  
W. O. (Toby) Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. B. B. Bowen  
Judge Earl Solomon  
Glynn & Ben Powell  
Robert Silas Staggs  
Erin W. Staggs  
E. L. Stanford  
Dr. John L. Durr  
Mrs. Norma Irene Speir  
Stewart  
Louis & Elzene Bell  
Mrs. Verlye Stokes  
Frank Elizabeth Drake  
William D. Thomas  
Median Adult Sunday School,  
DeKalb BC  
Glenn & Rose Smith

Four Baptist Children's Village boys recently joined former Village Trustee Cooper Walton, Mrs. Walton and others as participants in a production held at The Agricultural Museum in Jackson.



## Make A Child Happy At Christmas

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HOSTING A CHILD IN YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS (DECEMBER 18, 1987 THROUGH JANUARY 3, 1988) NOW IS THE TIME

Apply to become an approved visitor by writing the Social Service Department at:

The Baptist Children's Village

P. O. Box 11308

Jackson, Mississippi 39213

or by calling the Social Service Department at:  
(601) 922-2242

## Houseparents — New Albany Group Home



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson serve as houseparents in the New Albany Group Home, New Albany, Mississippi. Normally eight children live in the facility, attend the New Albany Public Schools and worship with First Baptist Church, New Albany. Bill and Betty Jackson are referred to affectionately as "Mom" and "Pop".

On Wednesday, October 21, 1987 Union County Baptists will hear more about the New Albany Group Home and The Baptist Children's Village when the associational meeting is held at New Harmony Baptist Church. Dr. John Nowlin, Director of Staff and Children's Development will be The Village 1987 representative for Union County.

Evon Tillman  
Roy & Joy Cliburn  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Tillman  
Julia James  
Harold Wilson  
Mrs. Ethel Turman  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Annie S. Veasey  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gowan  
C. O. Walker  
Mrs. Mattie B. Flynt  
Clayton Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Juan Orozco  
Mr. C. O. Walker  
Johnny, Jennifer, & Jada  
Moulds

Mrs. Gertrude Walker  
Mrs. Elise M. Curtis  
Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Milling  
Mrs. Mary Anna Pope  
Clemson O. Wall  
Mrs. Gladys Harper  
Mr. Orrin S. Wanker  
Dot & Andy Helton  
Stuart S. Ward  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Reeder  
Haskit T. Webb  
Mr. Ira Lee Kirkpatrick Jr.  
Mrs. Vida Webb  
Allen Mapp, Ann Smith,  
Birdie Jennings  
Mrs. Blanche Wellington  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Stennett

Mr. Harold White  
Ms. Peggy Williams  
Alex Williams  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Mrs. Lora Wilson  
Naomi/Ruth Sunday School,  
FBC, Vicksburg  
Michael Wise  
Mrs. E. E. Blakemore  
**HONORS**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Collins  
Ms. Lounez Hayes  
Mrs. Margaret Ross  
Fidelis Sunday School Class,  
Pelahatchie BC

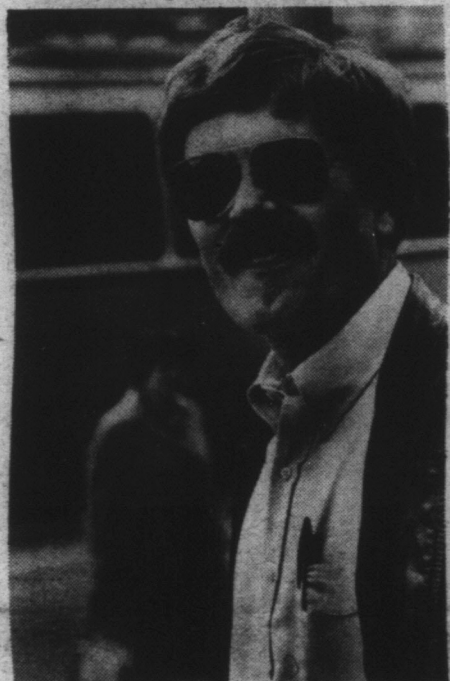


# Baptist Record

## Odyssey to Europe started in Mantee

By Martha Skelton

VIENNA, Austria — Mantee, Miss., the Caribbean, and the South Pacific don't have a lot in common with Eastern Europe. But in Southern Bap-



Paul Thibodeaux first went overseas as a pastor assisted by his church, First, Mantee. Now Paul and his wife, Margie, are Southern Baptist fraternal representatives working with Baptists in Eastern Europe. But he hasn't forgotten the support of the congregation who first helped him see the need for missions. "Those people have been around the world and never left Mantee," he says. (FMB) PHOTO By Warren Johnson

tist-missionary Paul Thibodeaux's life, a thread connects them all.

Thibodeaux was pastor of First Church, Mantee, and is the former missions chairman for two Mississippi associations: Webster and Choctaw counties. Both he and his wife, Margie, claim Oxford as their home.

The Thibodeauxes live in Vienna working as fraternal representatives among the eight East European countries to which Southern Baptists relate — East Germany, Poland, the Soviet Union, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria.

The Thibodeaux missions' odyssey began in Mantee, where he went to be pastor after graduating from New Orleans Seminary. The warmth and caring of the congregation, with 365 members at that time, is something the missionary couple still remembers. "It is a big church in our hearts," he says.

The church had a love of pastors and missions involvement. They saw their role as growing pastors. A Foreign Mission Board member, Larry Kennedy, challenged the church to set up a trust fund to send pastors or others on missions projects at least one time a year. The church saw this as part of its ministry. "Those people have been around the world and never left Mantee," Thibodeaux says.

As pastor, he went on 11 trips. "When I went, I had no concept of missions.

My consciousness of missions began to grow."

He went first to places like Tortola, the Philippines, Haiti. "I like to preach. In places like the Philippines, I could preach two or three times a day to crowds that were receptive, responsive. I enjoyed the fellowship with the missionaries." He asked them specific questions about missionary life. By February 1982, while on a trip to the Philippines, he "began to see myself as being called . . . The Damascus Road has not been my experience," he says. "God has worked in a progression with me."

With an idea about France, another area he'd been on a mission trip, he called Isam Ballenger, now Foreign Mission Board vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. He told Thibodeaux the greatest need for missionaries was in Eastern Europe, not an area known for the overt responsiveness he'd seen. "I was at the point of asking where's the greatest need, not where do you see the most hands," he says. He and Margie left Mantee for missionary appointment in December 1982.

The Thibodeauxes and another missionary couple, John David and Jo Ann Hopper, live in one country and work in others. Their work is different from most assigned overseas. "We work in eight countries, live in a ninth. It's not a specific job description (like) youth work in Lyon," he says.



An evangelical bookstore in Hungary's capital city showcases Bibles and Christian books in a Budapest subway station. Paul Thibodeaux, formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church in Mantee, examines the display with Kamilla Furedi. She has since gone to Sierra Leone as a missionary representing Hungarian Baptists. Thibodeaux is a Southern Baptist fraternal representative in Eastern Europe who lives in Vienna, Austria. (FMB) PHOTO By Warren Johnson.

By law, they cannot live permanently in Eastern Europe, although the Thibodeauxes did live in Yugoslavia for several months doing Serbo-Croatian language study. Some other groups tie their way into work in Eastern Europe. "I have an ethical problem with that," Thibodeaux says. He and the Hoppers operate quietly, but openly.

Another difference is language. They relate to several languages, but live in a German-speaking country. In their first term, they studied two languages — German and Serbo-Croatian. Paul's problem is that he travels so much, it is hard to maintain his German. For Margie, who makes infrequent trips into Eastern Europe, German is her basic language.

Their church life is complicated. They live in Austria, but have little contact with Austrian Baptist churches, except through a Romanian group meeting in Vienna. Margie and the Thibodeaux children, Amy Patres, 12, and Paul Jason, 8, do attend regularly in Vienna; Paul is often away.

What can missionaries working this way do, the Hoppers and Thibodeauxes often are asked. "As they (East European Baptists) ask us, we join together as partners (and work)," Thibodeaux says. On his trips, he preaches, teaches in seminary classes, and meets with Baptist union leaders to plan joint outreach, education, Bible printing, and distribution projects — areas of common working relationships. Through the East European mission, Southern Baptists have assisted in these areas plus capital projects such as assisting in church building.

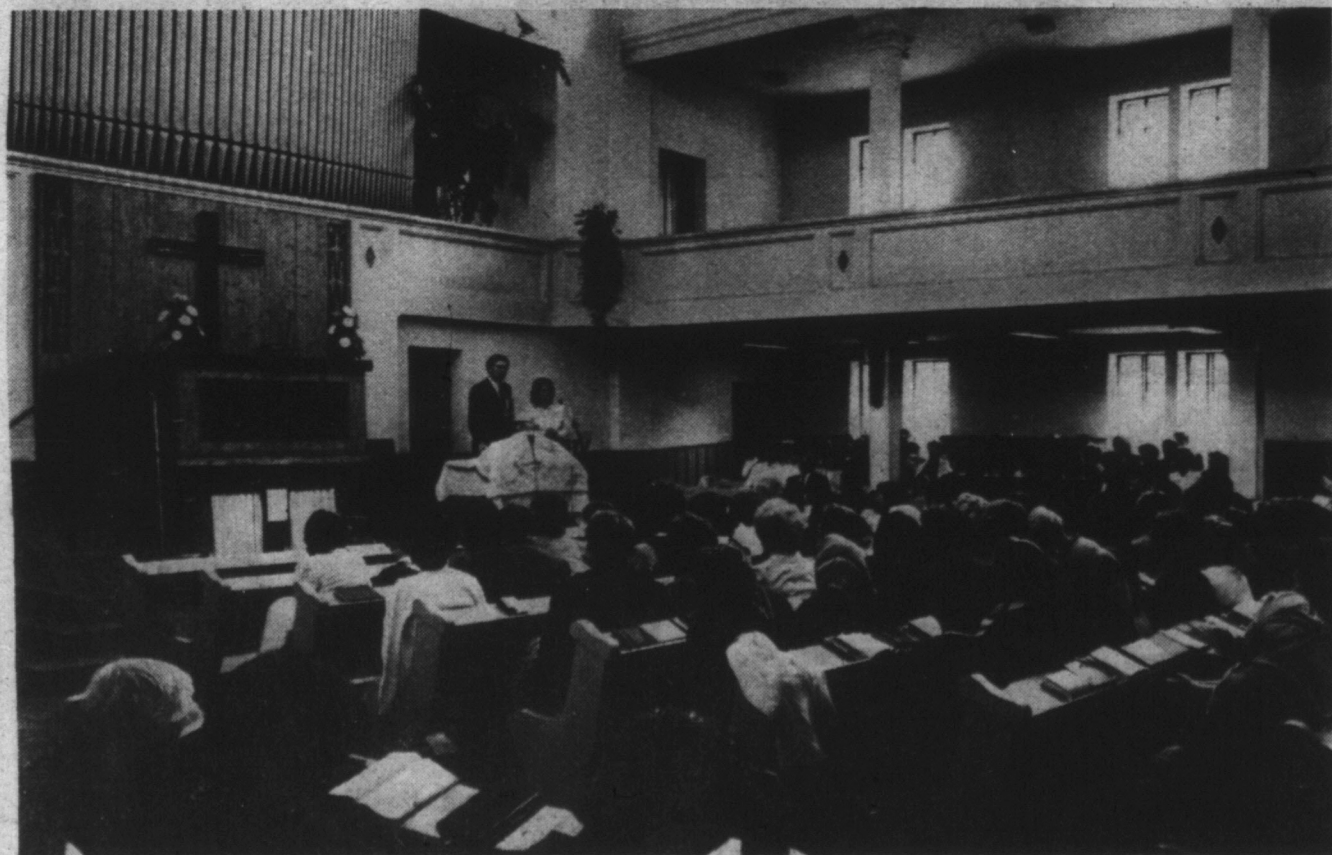
For Thibodeaux, working in Eastern Europe has its share of struggles and joys. "My biggest struggle is not preaching every Sunday, the frustration of losing the discipline of preaching for two services on Sunday and a sermon on Wednesday," he says. "I have a phobia of going stale."

But there are blessings. "I have . . . an opportunity to reach a larger number of people." In Eastern Europe, there is the opportunity to see other places God is working. "The

church in Eastern Europe is healthy, growing. We are getting away from the idea there is no faith, no hope. Two-thirds of the Baptists in Europe are in Socialist countries. It is inspirational to be in countries like Romania, to preach for two hours and see the people standing outside, crammed to the pulpit," he says.

So the pilgrimage continues in Hungary and Yugoslavia, as it began in Mississippi and on short missions trips. "When you see the need," Thibodeaux says, "realize how few people are sharing the gospel, how many of them are in Mississippi, the South, the convention . . . the need (overseas) was greater."

Martha Skelton writes for the Commission magazine.



Southern Baptist representative Paul Thibodeaux lives in Vienna, Austria, but does a lot of visiting, preaching, teaching and encouraging on travels in Eastern Europe. Here he preaches on a Sunday morning at the Baptist church in

Kiskoros, Hungary. There are approximately 12,000 Baptists in 260 churches and 145 mission points in Hungary. (FMB) PHOTO By Warren Johnson.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 10-15 00  
SO BAPT HIS SOCIETY  
SUITE 400  
901 COMMERCE ST  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

October 15, 1987

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205